

Hafa Adai!

FBI releases photos of suspects in electronic thefts. **PAGE 2**

More than \$6.8M from sugar tax expected. **PAGE 3**

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75¢

AG: NMI ready to defend gun law

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan told Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Friday that his office is ready to defend landmark legislation to regulate the possession of firearms in the Commonwealth when enacted into law, particularly over any legal challenges to a proposed heavy tax on pistols.

» **Torres expected to sign sweeping gun bill into today**

At the same time, Office of the Governor spokesman Ivan Blanco said that Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog would be holding a signing ceremony for the firearm legislation today,



Manibusan

Monday, April 11, at 9am at the governor's conference room to enact into law the Special Act for Firearm Enforcement,

or SAFE Act.

The bill was proposed in the wake of a federal court rul-

See AG on Page 4

CUC board asks Torres to declare water emergency

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

A decision is expected from the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres today after the board of directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sent out a request to declare an emergency on Saipan's water situation.

In an interview, Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that he will be meeting with the CUC board over the weekend to discuss the request they sent to his office and will be deciding on it today.

If approved, it will be the first time that such an emer-

gency will be declared on Saipan's water situation.

Torres said he will "bring the board in, find out what exactly they need, what is their goal."

Asked what it would mean once an emergency is declared, "We're going to find out, what is the declaration that they have, what the declaration entails and what is their solution," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

The CUC board voted to pass a motion to "request from the Governor's Office to make an emergency declaration as a result of the cost to address the state of the water infrastructure

See CUC on Page 4

Administration looking into reverse-osmosis water system

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

With water issues becoming worse on Saipan according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the two top officials of the Commonwealth said they believe in starting discussions for having a reverse-osmosis water system on the island.

Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, who sat on the second day of CUC board's meeting last Friday, told *Saipan Tribune* that he wanted to "see an update on our water supply" and "when

can we realize to have 24-hour water and high-quality water."

"They invited me to come and hear them out as to what they have forthcoming before the governor and I guess they will be discussing that in the executive session," Hocog said.

Hocog was with the board prior to the start of the meeting and before the first day of their meeting last Thursday.

"My concern here is if CUC is going to recommend building additional pumps," Hocog said, "Even if they put up 20

See WATER on Page 4



BURGERS FOR A CAUSE

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres flips burgers in support of his wife's Lady Diann Torres Foundation fundraising project at the Northern Marianas College's Best Charter Day Ever last Friday. Proceeds from their sales will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer and will help cancer patients and their families in the CNMI.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

See story on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Members of the community joined hands in doing their share to help Fiji that also sustained heavy damage after being hit by Cyclone Winston.

» **PAGE 6**



BUSINESS

Members of the community, despite still reeling from the devastation brought by Typhoon Soudelor last year, joined hands in doing their share to help Fiji that also sustained heavy damage after being hit by Cyclone Winston.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Have you found yourself turning to sugary sweets too often? We all have our food vices—that one treat that we can't get enough of.

» **PAGE 18**



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Local

IN CONNECTION WITH FHB SKIMMING INCIDENT

FBI releases photos of suspects in electronic thefts

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has released on Saturday 10 photos of individuals wanted by the FBI for questioning in connection to the recent electronic thefts from First Hawaiian Bank accounts held by Saipan residents.

FBI special agent Tom Simon said the FBI believes that

the individuals in the photographs may have recently resided on Saipan and may still be on island.

"Anyone with information to provide should leave a message at the Saipan office of the FBI at 670-322-6934 or call local police," Simon said.

As of yesterday, there was no reply yet from the FBI to inquiry if arrests have already been made. As the photos appeared in social media over



the weekend, some people commented that they saw some of the suspects at certain places on the island.

Simon said learning the identities and whereabouts of the men in the photos would be a major break in this case.

"Hopefully someone calls in the tip we need to solve this one," said Simon who is also FBI Honolulu's spokesman.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Federal Bureau of Investigation released these photos of men wanted in connection with the recent electronic thefts from First Hawaiian Bank accounts held by Saipan residents. Surveillance cameras captured the suspects using FHB teller machines at Gualo Rai and Oleai branches last March 6 and 29.

The photos released by the FBI showed four to five individuals, who looked orientals, used FHB teller machines at Gualo Rai and Oleai branches last March 6 and 29.

FHB stated that card skimming through their ATMs was believed to be the cause of the

unauthorized transactions made in various FHB accounts.

Simon said the statutory maximum penalty for bank fraud is 30 years in federal prison.

"The public is reminded that all suspects in criminal cases are regarded as innocent

unless or until proven guilty in court," he added.

The FBI has vowed to arrest the defrauders who victimized several First Hawaiian Bank customers' accounts on Saipan, causing many, even from other banks, to withdraw their money last Monday, April 4.

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Saipan Tribune

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Kaohsiung International Travel Fair & Tourism Expo

40 Years 1976-2016

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) recently brought tropical sunshine to cold Taiwan with promotional events at the Kaohsiung International Travel Fair (KITF) and Kaohsiung Tourism Expo (KTE) on Feb. 26-29, 2016.

The MVA received a complimentary booth from the KITF and KTE organizers to increase awareness of the Northern Marianas as a popular vacation destination and to increase tour package sales. An Asiana Airlines flight ticket from Taipei to Saipan



was raffled at the event. The travel fair had 120 exhibitors and received 120,000 visitors, while the expo had 100 exhibitors and reached 100,000 visitors.

The target market were consumers who purchase packages to Saipan or Saipan and Tinian through partners in Kaohsiung.

www.mymarianas.com



SENATE REPORT:

More than \$6.8M from sugar tax expected

In their findings on proposed a sugar tax bill last week, the Senate largely cited the harm of a sugar-laden diet on CNMI residents but also note the millions of dollars in additional government revenue potentially collected and given to local health programs to combat diabetes, among other programs like medical referral.

The Senate passed House Bill 19-99 HD4, SD1 unanimously last week with substantial amendments. The bill seeks to, among others, assess a health impact tax on sugar-sweetened beverages and sugar-sweetened concentrate, for the prevention of non-communicable diseases in the CNMI.

In their report recommending the passage of the bill, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare noted that the current tax of \$.005 per fluid ounce on soft drinks alone generated

approximately \$849,400 in 2015.

With the additional proposed tax of \$.04 per fluid ounce, senators wrote, "approximately \$6.8 million will be collected from soft drinks alone."

"This means that this estimate will be far exceeded when the taxes are collected for other sugar-sweetened beverages, and in addition, the \$.04 per fluid ounce on the syrup and powder foodstuff," the senators said.

Among others, the Senate amended the bill to provide funding for the Divisions of Customs, CNMI Medical Referral Programs, Public School System health and education and drug-free programs, and the general fund, after striking out a provision that would have given 50 percent of revenues collected to the local

hospital to essentially pay off its debts and afterwards its operations.

The Senate broke down the taxes collected as follows: 60 percent of the taxes collected to the diabetes maintenance programs and the community health grants under the hospital, 10 percent to Customs to support enforcement, 10 percent for the CNMI Medical Referral program, 10 percent for PSS health education and drug-free programs, and 10 percent to the general fund.

This breakdown removed the 50 percent allocation to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to pay its debts to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

A sunset provision was also added so that "impact" of the funds must be reviewed after five years, to see whether the allocations should continue or should be directed to other programs.

The Senate also mandated that the earmarks cannot be reprogrammed and that any person who violated this provision would be personally liable for the amount reprogrammed.

They further added a provision so that the taxes collected are accounted and deposited in the respective

accounts every quarter, out of fears that the funds may not get to recipient in fixed and consistent intervals.

Senators explained funding to Customs by saying they met the Customs director to discuss the bill and note that with the proposed tax, "each box of syrup and powder food stuff must be opened so that the size in fluid ounces can be determined to calculate the appropriate excise tax for the syrup and powders." The current tax on syrup and powder food is one percent ad valorem and is easily calculated by just taking one percent of the invoice value of the food stuff, the Senate said, but the new procedure

would "lengthen the already long and tedious inspections and clearance process."

Citing studies conducted in the CNMI and the U.S., the Senate also said that obesity rates in the CNMI are 50 percent higher than the entire U.S., which is at a rate of 34.9 percent. Moreover, that official Medicare numbers indicate a rate of dialysis from diabetes in the CNMI at 300 percent above the U.S. level.

The Senate committee also said that theoretical models have also shown that increased sugar-sweetened beverage taxes result in reduced consumption, leading to weight loss and reduced risk of disease. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

Call for entries extended for Humanities Film Festival

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council has extended the call for entries deadline for its Humanities Film Festival to May 31.

The festival's theme is "Soudelor and the Winds of Change in the CNMI."

Filmmakers are invited to submit entries that explore and address the ethical, philosophical and existential questions raised in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

The festival is open to individuals who are 18 years old and older and current residents of the CNMI. High school students (9th-12th grades) are also eli-

gible to submit films. Films may be submitted under three categories—Narrative, Documentary, and Student. Entries in each of these categories may be a feature film (more than 30 minutes) or a film short (no more than 15 minutes).

Entry forms and festival guidelines and fact sheet may be downloaded from the council website www.northernmarianashumanities.org or picked up at the council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai.

Contact council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this upcoming program. **(PR)**

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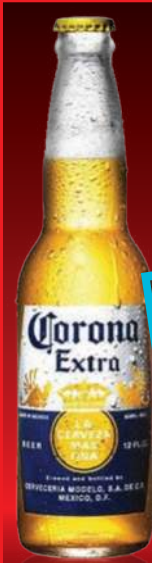
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LDF-NMC holds MMAC fundraising in Charter Day

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Lady Diann Foundation and the Northern Marianas College—students, faculty, and staff—teamed up to form a team for this year's Marianas March Against Cancer, set on May 13 and 14 at the Hopwood Junior High School grounds.

The LDF-NMC MMAC team was among the more than 30 booths that joined the 35th NMC Charter Day, held last April 8 and 9, on NMC

campus grounds. They sold baked goods, T-shirts, and mushroom burgers—cooked by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres—as part of their fundraising campaign.

Irene Torres, one of those in charge of the fundraising drive, said a lot of people had already come to buy their items as well as raffle tickets with a live baby goat as prize. They also have a jail booth where those caught must match an amount for bail.

"It has been a wonderful

two days with the biggest hit is the mushroom burgers. It was a successful fundraising. People also bought our baked goods, T-shirts, and raffle tickets for the baby goat," said Torres.

"We are targeting a high amount for MMAC and the proceeds we collected in the Charter Day are a great start to our goal," she added.

She said that all volunteers who worked with them in their tent were tireless and unmindful of the fatigue despite be-

ing at the NMC grounds early in the morning to set up and work in their tent.

"All volunteers who donated their time here have been awesome. All of us, we're not looking at it as work but just having fun in doing our share for the community. Thank you to all who supported our booth, and to all who continue to help us and would help us in our future events," said Torres.

The Palauan Club, the NMC Nursing Club, Commonwealth Health Center

Corp., the Corporate Social Responsibility Team of Best Sunshine International, Ltd.—who are recruiting volunteers to help them in various community projects—also had their respective tents. Food and various items—from accessories, toys, and mobile phones—were also sold.

Live entertainment was also provided with the 30-member dance group 2911 of Ray S. Lizama and Three Shores band among those that performed.

Results of the contests, like the battle of the bands and coconut husking, were not yet available as of press time.

CUC

From Page 1

on Saipan and the financial inability of CUC to fund that cost which gives CUC the eminent inability to provide adequate, 24-hour water supply for the residents of Saipan that affects the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Saipan."

CUC board vice chair Eric San Nicolas made the motion immediately after coming out of their three-hour long executive session on Friday. The rest of the board members, except director David Sablan who was absent at the time, voted to approve the motion.

CUC board meetings as early as March included discussion on declaring a state of emergency and creating an action plan for water.

An operations committee meeting was held just last March 31, attended by a quorum of board members, to discuss the water situation after Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog expressed to the board his interests in having a plan in place.

"If they need to declare a state of emergency, they will but they can't make that decision because we're sending out two different messages," San Nicolas said during the

board's third day of meeting last month, stressing the need to have a plan and a consolidated message to the public with regards to the water issue.

Funding issue

Asked why there was a need to request for an emergency declaration, CUC board chair Adelina Roberto said simply, "Because we have water problems."

"We don't have the money, we got problems with water," Roberto told *Saipan Tribune*.

Earlier board meetings also held discussions to reprioritize current grant funds awarded to CUC to address current pressing issues with the water division.

These grant money, most of which come from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which allocates about \$6 million per year, are already set for specific priority projects.

Although CUC determined that changes to the priority listing can be made with the approval of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, *Saipan Tribune* learned that there are criteria to be followed when determining grant projects for EPA funds.

It is not yet clear if declaring an emergency will allow for grant money to be used

for non-priority listed projects or if CUC can circumvent procurement rules.

Getting worse

While CUC is currently down to about 73 percent of the island having access to 24-hour water from as high as 96 percent last December, it is marginally better than in 2008 when only 60 percent of Saipan's population was enjoying 24-hour water.

This was an improvement from 2006 and 2007 when only 26 and 54 percent of Saipan, respectively, had 24-hour water.

When pushed why is it only now that they are requesting to declare an emergency when the water situation has always had problems, Roberto said "it's getting worse."

"It's getting worse and we're running out of money to address the issues that we need to address to make it better," Roberto said.

Acting executive director Gary Camacho echoed the sentiment by stressing that the system is just "old" and that there is an anticipated increase in demand.

"It's much older today than it has ever been, obviously. It's an old system," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We have an increased de-

mand that we anticipate with the development and the board is trying to be proactive," he added.

Roberto said they hope to get some funding with an emergency being declared.

"We're hoping that this would get us get the executive to give us some funds. That's where we're headed, Roberto said.

"We're just requesting because that would take care of our immediate need for funding and to arrange... make necessary payment," she added.

Camacho said the management supports the decision of the board.

"The decision was based on information provided by management particularly the water division," Camacho said, "Obviously there are issues with 70 percent unaccounted for water."

Camacho said the board will communicate and discuss with the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor the scope of the declaration and the needs of CUC.

"The ideal is to get 24-hour water to the community and reliable water supply with a minimal standard level of losses," Camacho said.

"We need some assistance for a certain amount of time and then get right back to normal," he added.

other issues.

\$44 million

Saipan Tribune learned that starting a reverse osmosis water system will cost no less than \$44 million in capital alone.

Asked where CUC or the government will get the funding for such an expensive project, Torres said it is yet to be determined and alluded to a plan where the RO will be available to certain areas first.

"A lot of times it's about funding, but we don't know what we have unless we request what it costs. That's why instead of doing an island-wide, one time [project] which will probably cost a hundred

AG

From Page 1

ing to strike down parts of the CNMI's gun laws, effectively allowing the permit of handguns in the CNMI for the first time.

The proposed SAFE Act has assault weapons banned, requires trigger locks on firearms; addresses expected increase in firearm violence by establishing new crimes; and creates gun free zones around public and private places.

Manibusan, in a letter to Torres Friday, recommended the passage of the gun control bill and found no legal deficiency with the bill, but highlighted one "serious concern" with the House amendment to impose a \$1,000 excise tax on pistols.

"Although taxing jurisdictions are given broad discretionary authority to impose taxes to protect general welfare, I am concerned that the \$1,000 tax per pistol may be too excessive and unreasonably infringes on an individual's fundamental right protected by the Second Amendment," Manibusan said in his two-page letter Friday. "Nevertheless, should this matter be brought to court, my office is prepared to defend this provision of the bill.

There are several cases involving gun control and the scope of the Second Amendment that are before the federal courts, Manibusan said, including a case in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals deal-

ing "with controls on the carrying of firearms in public places."

"Indeed, that same issue remains pending in the district court in *Murphy v. Deleon Guerrero*," he added, referring to another case challenging NMI's gun law.

"My office will continue to monitor the case law as these issues move through the federal courts and make recommend changes to Commonwealth law as deemed necessary," he said.

On Friday, he wrote that the bill will "fill the void" in the regulation of firearm possession because of the federal court's "nullification of the 40-year ban on handguns." It will also secure the safety and security of the people by updating gun control laws to address the "reality of gun possession," in the application of the Second Amendment to the CNMI.

The bill relies heavily on the District Court of Columbia and Illinois, "which have the most restrictive gun control statutes in the nation," Manibusan also said.

He also noted that his office has worked tirelessly on a section-by-section analysis of the draft bill, which represents and explains the intent of the SAFE act.

The bill passed the Legislature last week and acknowledges the incorporation of this analysis, which cited earlier case law to emphasize that the rights under the Second Amendment are "not unlimited."

WATER

From Page 1

more, I believe, if its only one source, there's no way we're going to resolve this."

When asked if he supports the idea of having a reverse-osmosis water system, Hocog replied, "That's why I am here, to see what they have."

"Building 20 more tanks or pumps will not help because we only have one aquifer. So what is the alternative?" he added.

Reverse osmosis is a water purification technology, which could desalinate water among other purification process. It was the type of production

used by the U.S. Marine Corps who helped Saipan to have clean drinking water with the lagoon as their source shortly after Typhoon Soudelor.

In a separate interview, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that he supports building an RO system.

"Definitely, we have to start somewhere, somehow," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We have goals to make water drinkable, potable. One of our goals is to start with one zone or grid so that our people can start having reverse osmosis, they can start drinking," he added.

Torres said he consulted with the board the current water situation on island.

"But before we [have reverse osmosis], I wanted to know, I asked the board to look into how much or what percentage is our water leakage because we're going to have, I'm going to invest RO system and our percentage of our leakage is high, we're not helping the solution," Torres said.

"Couple of months ago, we asked them to give a feasibility of the state of all the utility and water situation. We had a 19-page power report and on the water, I knew that more work needs to be done," he added.

At CUC's recent board meetings, it was discussed that CUC has only 70 percent of the water it produces accounted for due to leaks, theft, and

million [dollars], if we go by sections and take care of our issues, one village or one zone then we can address that in a better way," Torres said.

Hocog echoed the sentiment, saying, "We need to stop the bleeding somewhere. Whether we will work on zoning areas to provide at least... not only 24-hour water but high-quality water."

Hocog said that CUC will spend more on following their 20-year water master plan than starting an RO system.

"Roughly CUC will spend \$280 million in addressing this problem according to the master plan. But will it address the Clean Water Act? Will it address 24-hour water?"

Hocog said.

"Even if we have to spend \$150 million to do a development project, from example, from As Matuis all the way down to probably San Antonio, and if they have that idea for reverse osmosis, then we need to find out what the cost of the production is and what would be the rate increase for the consumers," he added.

Hocog said that If CUC "have reverse osmosis, not only is it safe, its high quality, and its 24-hour water."

"If that's the route, then CUC will have to sit down and address the funding level, where, how," Hocog said, "Once that is said and done, CUC can recover those."

JKPL celebrates National Library Week

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is celebrating National Library Week this month and it has lined up various activities for the occasion. Celebration started last Saturday, April 9, with a proclamation signing.

JKPL has an ongoing special sale for books, magazines, DVDs, and music CDs. Soft cover and paperback books, and hardbound nonfiction books are .25 cents each; hardbound fiction books are .75 cents per piece; DVDs and CDs are prized at \$1 and .50 cents, respectively while all magazines are .10 cents apiece.

The special sale also has a promo of buy five books and

get one free or you will get five for free if you purchase 10.

JKPL library assistant and front circulation supervisor Ray Deleon Guerrero Jr. is encouraging everyone to visit them. "So patrons and people of the CNMI stop by your library and take part in our National Library Celebration."

Deleon Guerrero added that they are also holding an ongoing canned goods and clothes drive. "All donations will be donated to Karidat Social Services to help those in need."

U.S. Delegate Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) donated books to JKPL, while Larry Lee and his students

had a ukulele presentation.

JKPL also extended its hours yesterday from 10am to 2pm and today, Monday, from 1pm to 6pm. Their regular hours are 10am to 6pm every Tuesdays to Fridays and 9am to 4pm every Saturday. They will also have an amnesty week where all fines will be waived on overdue materials that will be returned in good condition.

On April 14, Thursday, there will be a free library card to all members who lost theirs. It is only a one-day event for free and members must be free from any fines or overdue materials. *(Jon Perez)*

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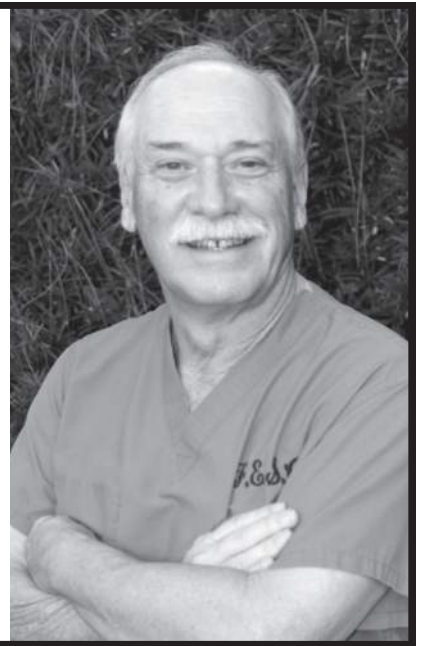
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Honda Pilot EX retail price \$44,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 72 monthly payments of \$613.70 or \$274.13 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$42,765.60.

CNMI community unites for Fiji relief drive

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the community, despite still reeling from the devastation brought by Typhoon Soudelor last year, joined hands in doing their share to help Fiji that also sustained heavy damage after being hit by Cyclone Winston more than two months ago.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he understand Fiji's situation with "the hardships associated with a powerful storm as we experience in Soudelor. Unfortunately, Fiji cannot depend on federal resources and must depend on the generosity of the world and the Pacific island communities."

A small Fijian community, less than 10, remains on Saipan most of whom are working as midwives at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. Before there were more than 30 midwives at CHC.

"They were the ones who helped in giving birth to a generation here on Saipan and it is now time to give back from the service they gave. Most of them went back to Fiji once their contracts expired," said KKMP's Gary Sword, one of the organizers of the relief drive.

The KKMP Foundation, of former representative Rosemund Santos, is one of the lead groups in the relief drive along with the Lady Diann Foundation, the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter, Typhoon May-sak Group (Yap and Chuuk), the Marianas Young Professionals, the Saipan Filipino-



American Lions Club, and the Saipan Marianas Lion's Club.

Kyowa, through their agent Saipan Shipping, lent a 40-foot container that will be used to ship for free the clothes, cases of water, emergency supplies, and other daily essentials to Fiji. It will take more than a month before the container reaches Fiji.

"There are a lot of generous people here in the community. We are hoping to raise \$10,000 but whatever cash we collected, we're going to put in a cashier's check and give it to the proper authorities in Fiji," said Sword, whose father is from Fiji.

He added that close to

\$3,000 was already collected as of Saturday afternoon not including the \$1,000 each given by Best Sunshine International, Ltd., and KKMP Foundation, and \$500 from Bridge Capital. Cash donations will still be accepted at the KKMP radio station at the Cabrera Center until May 3.

Personnel and cadets of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services also held a boot drive in four intersections on Saipan last March 31.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) also donated clothes and cases of water, saying that his is the CNMI's way of helping another island community. "It's just helping

one island to another."

"After all they went through

from Cyclone Winston and the flooding, it really hurts to

Members of the Talofa Dancers, 2015 Liberation Day Queen Zolenska Yaroitemal, third left, 2016 Liberation Day committee member Rose Hocog, second right, and Northern Marianas Athletics official Robin Sapong do their share in helping last Saturday's Fiji relief drive.

see them suffer. This is the CNMI's way of giving back in any way that we can," Guerrero added.

SFALC, PCF, last year's Liberation Day Queen Zolenska Yaroitemal and candidates for this year's Royal Court, the Talofa Dancers, and Northern Marianas Athletics official Robin Sapong—a native of Chuuk—helped in last Saturday's relief drive.

Cyclone Winston, a Category 5, was the strongest to hit Fiji killing 44 people and displacing more than 300,000. Winston either damaged or destroyed close to 55,000 homes forcing more than 90,000 Fijians to live in 300 shelters.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Small craft advisory cancelled

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center has cancelled the small craft advisory advisory as winds have decreased below small craft advisory levels.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service, Tiyan Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, moderate trade winds and combined seas of 6 to 8 feet are expected

through Sunday with both winds and sea heights decreasing slightly by Sunday night. A weak trade wind disturbance will bring scattered showers to the Marianas late Saturday and early Sunday morning.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is advising the general public and inexperienced mariners—especially those operating smaller vessels—to continue to exercise caution as the sea and wind will remain just below hazardous level for a few

days. (PR)

AMP Visitor Center closed on April

The public is advised the American Memorial Park Visitor Center will be closed on Monday, April 25, 2016, due to mandatory training for all park personnel. The Visitor Center will resume normal hours of operations on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at 9am.

For more information on the park please visit: www.nps.gov/amme. (PR)

MVA essay contest deadline today

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the Marianas Visitors Authority announces a student essay contest open to all CNMI public and private school students Grades 3-12. The deadline to submit to MVA offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota offices is 5pm today, April 11.

The theme of the contest is, "How Can I Support the Tourism Industry?" All entries must be typed and include: student name, teacher name, school, and grade level. In additional, maximum essay lengths are 300 words for Grades 3-6, 500 words for grades 7-9, and 600 words for grades 10-12.

By entering, contestants and their guardians agree to allow MVA to use their name, image, and essay for promotional purposes. For more information, contact Catherine Perry at cperry@integrity-communications.net or 288-8433. (PR)



PUBLIC NOTICE

To Our Valued Guests:

Due to scheduled annual maintenance, the PIC Point Break will be closed from April 4 to 23, 2016 and will re-open on April 24, 2016. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

PIC Management

您好! nín hǎo

Learning Chinese

Saipan Chinese Education Center
Address: Matsue St. China Town, Garapan

Basic Chinese, General Conversation

Flexible Schedule, Open from April

For more details please contact:
1(670)233-3988 at Owen Ji
saipanchineseassociation1@gmail.com

Tropical Leisure Sports, Inc.

P.O. Box 500157 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 233-8574 • Fax: (670) 233-0850 • Email: tlssaipan@gmail.com

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

For Qualified U.S. Citizens

Life Guard (3) Salary \$6.05/hr.

Flexible time schedule. Must monitor activities in swimming areas to prevent accidents. Caution swimmers regarding unsafe areas. Rescue swimmers in danger or drowning. Must be able to administer CPR and First Aid, and perform other related duties as assigned. Must be a high school graduate with at least 2 years experience as life guard and possess unexpired life guard, CPR & First Aid Certificates (American Red Cross)

Interested applicants may submit their resume to the Marine Sports Center counter located at the beach side of Grandvrio Resort Saipan no later than April 21, 2016.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC.
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNION BANK, Plaintiff,
vs. JUAN L. EVANGELISTA, Defendant.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-1046
[PLEADING TITLE]

SEVENTEENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Second Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 2, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Tract 22845-19 (part of original Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 31), as more particularly described on Drawing Cadastral Plat No. 2083-84, the original of which was recorded August 2, 1984, as Documented No. 84-1398 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016, at the hour of 1:30pm, at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the General Public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The terms and conditions of sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 10th day of March, 2016.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP: RFP16-GOV-091

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 26, 2016

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, A PROJECT UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, SECOND FLOOR, JUAN A. BUILDING, IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MATTHEW DELEON GUERRERO AT matt.deleonguerrero@gov.mp NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 15, 2016.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ RALPH DLG. TORRES
GOVERNOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

Kennedy denies Laos' petition for subpoenas on Bridge Capital, Baldwin

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has denied the petition of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for issuance of subpoenas to be served on Bridge Capital LLC and its co-owner John K. Baldwin and others in connection with the criminal tax investigations in Laos and international proceedings pending in Singapore.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy ruled that the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (GOL) is a sovereign nation, and may prosecute its laws and interpret its agreements as it sees fit.

"But this court is not required to help," said Kennedy in a 19-page decision issued on Thursday.

Kennedy granted Bridge Capital's motion to strike GOL's supplemental evidence for failure to comply with the court's local rules.

While the court placed the matter under advisement, GOL submitted supplemental evidence in support of its position.

Kennedy also denied GOL's motions for leave to file supplemental evidence.

According to court records, GOL filed an application to obtain discovery from Bridge Capital LLC, Baldwin, then-Bridge Capital chief financial officer David Jensen, and First Hawaiian Bank on Saipan, for use in private international commercial arbitration and its own criminal bribery and tax evasion investigation.

Kennedy heard the motion last Dec. 7 and placed it under advisement.

According to court records, GOL's petition relates to the ongoing breakup of its partnership with Sanum Investments Limited and Lao Holdings, N.V. over the Savan Vegas, a casino and resort in Laos.

Baldwin owns 50 percent of the shares of Lao Holdings, a Netherlands entity, which in turn is the sole owner of Sa-

num Investments, an entity organized under the laws of the Special Administrative Region of Macau, China.

The Savan Vegas was a joint venture in which Sanum Investments and Lao Holdings owned 80 percent of the casino and GOL owned the remaining 20 percent.

The parties disagreed over the nature of Bridge Capital's connection to the Savan Vegas. GOL asserts that Bridge Capital is funding Sanum's investments in Laos, but Bridge denies the charge.

Jensen was the chief financial officer of Bridge Capital at the time GOL filed its application, but he has since left the company. First Hawaiian Bank is Bridge Capital's bank.

The Savan Vegas partnership began in 2007. In connection with Sanum and Lao Holdings' investments, GOL granted several benefits to the Savan Vegas, including a low flat tax rate and a monopoly on casino gambling in its area of operation.

However, by 2012 the parties found themselves in disagreement regarding many aspects of the arrangement. Sanum and Lao Holdings filed arbitration complaints pursuant to bilateral investment treaties between GOL and China, and GOL and the Netherlands, respectively.

In June 2014, the parties settled the bilateral investment treaty arbitrations. The settlement agreement called for Sanum and Lao Holdings to sell off their interest in the Savan Vegas while allowing those entities to escape certain tax liabilities alleged by GOL.

Furthermore, the agreement specified that GOL "shall discontinue the current criminal investigations against Sanum/Savan Vegas and its management or other personnel and shall not reinstate such investigations provided that the terms and conditions agreed herein are duly and fully implemented by [Sanum and Lao Holdings]."

However, shortly after the agreement was finalized, Sanum and Lao Holdings attempted to reopen the bilateral

investment treaty arbitration, alleging that GOL had materially breached the settlement agreement.

For its part, GOL initiated a separate arbitration in the Singapore International Arbitration Centre pursuant to the settlement agreement itself.

Sanum and Lao Holdings were unsuccessful in their bid to reopen the bilateral investment treaty arbitration.

But in November 2015, Sanum and Lao Holdings sent a letter to GOL warning that another attempt would be made if GOL refused to comply with the terms of the settlement.

The record does not indicate that Sanum and Lao Holdings followed through on the threat. Bridge Capital declined to say at oral argument whether a revival of the bilateral investment treaty arbitration would actually be sought.

Meanwhile, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre is pending, and GOL reinitiated its criminal bribery and tax evasion investigation.

GOL seeks discovery from federal court to use in conjunction with the Singapore International Arbitration Centre arbitration and its criminal bribery and tax evasion investigation.

GOL argues that it is entitled to the discovery under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and 28 U.S.C. Section 1782.

Bridge Capital makes three principal arguments against GOL application.

Bridge Capital argues that the Convention does not grant a freestanding right to discovery, but rather applies through Section 1782.

Bridge Capital argues that the application fails to satisfy the threshold requirements of that statute.

Bridge Capital argues that discretionary factors weigh against granting discovery in this case.

Kennedy agrees with Bridge Capital.



Kennedy

Kennedy said the U.N. Convention Against Corruption grants no independent right to discovery.

Kennedy said GOL didn't meet the requirements of the statute. The magistrate judge cited that the district court may order discovery if three conditions are met.

First, she said, the person or entity from whom discovery is sought resides in or can be found in the court's district.

Second, Kennedy said, the application is made by a foreign or international tribunal or "any interested person."

Third, she said, the discovery is "for use in a proceeding in a foreign or international tribunal, including criminal investigations conducted before formal accusation."

Kennedy said there is no question that the first two statutory elements of GOL's Section 1782 application are satisfied: Bridge Capital, FHB, Baldwin, and Jensen can all be found within the district.

Kennedy said GOL, as party to the Singapore arbitration and the prosecuting authority in the criminal investigation,

certainly qualifies as an "interested person."

Kennedy said her opinion focuses on the third element: whether the discovery will be "use[d] in a proceeding in a foreign or international tribunal, including criminal investigations conducted before formal accusation."

Kennedy said she finds that GOL can satisfy neither the "international tribunal" requirement for Singapore International Arbitration Centre, nor the "use" requirement for the alleged criminal investigation or the bilateral investment treaties arbitration.

Kennedy said private arbitral bodies are not "foreign or international tribunals" for purposes of Section 1782.

Kennedy said because the Singapore International Arbitration Centre is a private arbitral body, the court lacks the statutory authority to order discovery for use in the Singapore proceeding.

Accordingly, Kennedy said, to the extent that GOL's discovery application rests on the proceedings before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, it is denied.

Kennedy said GOL's discovery application is not "for use" in a foreign or

international tribunal or criminal investigation under Section 1782.

Kennedy said in sum, she finds that the discovery sought with respect to the GOL criminal investigation and the purely speculative bilateral investment treaty arbitration revival fails to satisfy Section 1782's requirement that it be "for use in a proceeding in a foreign or international tribunal, including criminal investigations conducted before formal accusations."

Kennedy said discretionary factors also weigh against GOL's application.

Kennedy said despite the failure of the settlement to actually resolve the issues facing the Savan Vegas, the parties agreed to be bound by its terms, including non-prosecution.

To be clear, Kennedy said, no neutral arbiter—neither bilateral investment treaty nor Singapore International Arbitration Centre—has yet ruled on the breach claim or permitted either side to escape its obligations.

"But that has not stopped GOL from reinstating the investigation against Baldwin and the other owners and managers of the Savan Vegas," the magistrate judge pointed out.

5 injured in collision between 2 cars

Five persons, including three minors, were injured when two cars collided in front of Dolphin Wholesale in San Jose on Thursday night.

It took several minutes for the police and emergency medical technicians to remove the injured persons from the Toyota Corolla and transport them to the Commonwealth Health Center.

In the second car, the driver and his passengers—a wife and baby—were not injured.

Both vehicles sustained extensive damage to the hood and bumper portions.




Witnesses said the driver of the second car was very emotional and was yelling. When a police officer talked to him, he became calm and removed his shirt as he assisted his family.

One male passenger of the Toyota Corolla was shouting in pain as he was taken out from the car and transferred to an ambulance.


A woman was crying at the scene because her minor son was among the five occupants of the Toyota Corolla. She said her son and companions came from the Thursday Market in Garapan.

It was not clear yet who was found at fault as the area was dark.

Saipan Tribune requested information from the Department of Public Safety, but as of yesterday there was no reply. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Presents



Kenneth Q. Lujan
Branch Manager, SBA Guam

FREE

Saipan: "How to Obtain a SBA Loan"
By: Ken Q. Lujan
April 13, 2016 (Wednesday)
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Northern Marianas College, D1






"From starting up or expanding your business to recovering from disasters, SBA loan programs are available to help your business succeed. You can explore various types of loans that may be available at the upcoming training workshop."

Saipan: "How to Obtain a HUBZone Certification"
By: Ken Q. Lujan
April 14, 2016 (Thursday)
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Northern Marianas College, Room D1

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-16-006

SR-1 LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT (S-11-015)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of SR-1 Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the rehabilitation and upgrade of SR-1 Sewer Lift Station.

The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of the wet well, remove existing pumps and appurtenances and install new pumps, guide rails, control panel, valves, replacement of pipes and fittings, temporary wastewater bypass system, installation of new fence and gate, and other related work.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-16-006, SR-1 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 03, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 18, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer - via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-16-007

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE (CUC ROTA)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for CUC Administration and Operation in Rota, CNMI.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section (Saipan, Tinian or Rota), by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$20.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for 2:00 PM (ChST) on April 15, 2016 at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo Village, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP -16-007, Lease of Office Space (CUC Rota)" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2016.**

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponent due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Proponent's preparation of a proposal under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proponents for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the Proponent awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The Proponent awarded a contract shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 18, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Motion to set aside 289-month jail term on career offender dismissed

The federal court has ruled that it lacks jurisdiction to consider a successive motion to set aside a 289-month prison term imposed on John Gerald Castro Manglona, a career offender currently in federal prison for Hobbs Act robbery, use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, and escape.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona directed the clerk of court to transfer Pangelinan's motion to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Manglona advised Pangelinan that he must still file a motion for leave to proceed in the Ninth Circuit and make the showing required by the statute.

Manglona construes Pangelinan's motion as a successive motion to vacate, set aside, or correct a sentence.

Pangelinan filed a motion requesting the court to appoint a counsel for him and grant him a resentencing hearing.

The defendant is currently incarcerated in federal prison in Kentucky after he was slapped with a 289-month prison term in 2005.

Pangelinan was sentenced as a career offender under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.

In his motion, Pangelinan asserts that in light of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Johnson v. U.S.* case decided on June 26, 2015, his

sentence is illegal.

In Johnson's case, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the imposition of an increased sentence on a person found to be a career criminal under the residual clause of the Armed Career Criminal Act, violates due process.

In the plea agreement, the parties stipulated that Pangelinan was a career offender because he had two prior felony convictions for burglary and one for attempted assault with a dangerous weapon.

Because of this statute the applicable sentencing range rose from 230-257 months to 262-327 months.

The court accepted the defendant's change of plea on March 2, 2005. On June 3, 2005, the court sentenced him to 289 months.

Pangelinan did not directly appeal any aspect of his conviction or sentence.

Twice before in 2013 and 2015, Pangelinan appealed his sentence by filing motions to correct error and rehearing. Both times he was denied relief.

Manglona said a prisoner in custody serving sentence imposed by a federal court may move to have the sentence vacated, set aside, or corrected on grounds that it was imposed in violation of the U.S. laws or constitution. Manglona said before a



Manglona

district court may accept a successive petition for filing, the court of appeals must determine that it presents a claim not previously raised that is sufficient to meet the new-rule or actual-innocence provisions.

Manglona said without certification, the district court lacks jurisdiction to hear the motion.

Manglona said Pangelinan does not state under what statute, rule, or other authority he makes his latest motion.

Pangelinan asserts that a recent Supreme Court ruling calls into question whether his sentencing enhancement as a career offender was lawful.

Manglona said correcting sentences imposed in violation of the Constitution or laws of the U.S. is one of the express purposes of 28 U.S.C. Section 2255.

Manglona said Pangelinan's claim goes to the merits and does not allege a defect in the integrity of judicial proceedings.

Therefore, the judge said, the motion must be treated as a second or successive Section 2255 habeas motion.

As such, Manglona said, the court has no jurisdiction to consider it without certification from the Ninth Circuit. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Red Cross' Hirsh extends thanks to runners, PIC

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is thankful for the overwhelming response of members of the community that joined last Saturday's 3rd Pacific Islands Club-Saipan Hafa Adai 5K Color Run. ARC's NMI Chapter is this year's recipient of the annual fundraising campaign.

A total of 1,200 registered with more than 70 percent choosing to either run or walk, while others opted to just donate the registration fee. Part of the proceeds will be donated to ARC-NMI Chapter.

ARC-Marianas executive director John Hirsh said it has been eight months since Typhoon Soudelor ravaged Saipan but their work, including lead group Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, is not yet done.

"We are thankful to all who supported this event and to all who continue to support our programs. This is just a warm-up event for the

annual walkathon on April 30 where we are expecting close to 3,000 walkers participating," said Hirsh.

"We are not yet sure of the amount they are going to donate but we are grateful for whatever amount they give since it would be a great help to our programs," added Hirsh.

Hirsh said that PIC has been one of their generous contributors and had supported their numerous projects. "We have a long-standing partnership, PIC and the Red Cross. We have a great relationship and we are privileged that we are this year's recipients."

He added that in return the ARC-NMI Chapter has helped them in conducting lifeguard and safety training, and administering first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Agape Christian School had 90 percent of its school

population—students, parents, teachers, and staff—joining the Color Run with Allan Zhao and Caleb Wang being the fastest as they finished 1-2 overall. Times were not recorded.

Multisport athlete Rintaro Miyawaki of Saipan International School was the third runner to cross the finish line.

Eli Stoilova, a Zumba fitness instructor for five years, led the warm up before the run. She said that it was also her third year in leading the Zumba workout.

Fourteen Kagman High School students, who peppered Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele with blue-colored powder, were among the volunteers in the racecourse.

PIC gave away gym passes, gift certificates to their restaurants, waterpark passes, room stay, watches, and cash as some of their raffle prizes.

Saipan Tribune Make it your *DAILY* habit.

BSI takes part in successful NMC Charter Day

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team took part in the 35th annual Northern Marianas College Charter Day, a two-day event that celebrated the success of higher education in the CNMI.

During the celebration, college officials also honored about 70 several college, government and private sector leaders for their continued support. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, Imperial Pacific International-Best Sunshine International majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and several lawmakers and private sector leaders were honored for their contributions.

"The CSR group did so many things that NMC couldn't have done by themselves. They helped clean out our destroyed typhoon buildings. They helped clean our grounds. They actually built us a nice study area for the students, temporary, but a nice gesture," NMC acting president David Attao said.

Along with the successful 35th Charter Day event, BSI's CSR team will sponsor and volunteer at the NMC Foundation Golf Tournament, which will take place on April 30 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Attao disclosed that the college is now working with BSI for future projects, among others, training programs and classes in partnership with the largest private sector employer in the CNMI.

"We are excited to work with BSI for more projects in the future. Some things to look forward to are the training programs and classes that BSI will be providing here at NMC," Attao noted. "We continue to appreciate them and their support of our community especially our students and the college as a whole."

During the two-day NMC event held over-the-weekend, BSI's CSR team donated resources, manpower, and volunteers to assist NMC to create a fun and successful event for the community.

"BSI has been helping us since the planning stages of this year's charter day. We've had three representatives that have been attending the meetings and providing input. Thank you very much, BSI," according to NMC Charter Day committee member Cassy Deleon Guerrero.

According to BSI CSR director Rita Chong, CSR and NMC's partnership was created to bring the Village Pride Project to the college's Saipan campus.

"We assisted with logistics such as the preparation of the stage decorations, as well as providing the banner that served as the backdrop of the stage," Chong noted, as she discussed BSI-CSR's volunteer work that led to the overall successful staging of the 35th NMC Charter Day.

CSR coordinator Chandis Cooper, also known as radio personality Big Mama, served as the event emcee for both days. The event kicked off around 3:30pm with remarks from David Attao and opening prayer from Fr. James Balajadia.

BSI's participation during this year's Charter Day went beyond just preparing and volunteering at the event. BSI's CSR department was also among those who set up booths.

"CSR had a booth providing carnival games for kids. We were also able to recruit BSI volunteers," Chong added.

Program chair and NMC librarian Greg Sablan, commended BSI for their contributions: "I'm glad that BSI helped us. Everything that they've done for us really shows their commitment to community work. They've helped us with so many preparations for Charter Day. On behalf of the Charter Day committee, thank you so much for all your help. I hope that we can partner with them again for more future events." (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Close to 70 educators, government and private sector leaders were honored over the weekend by Northern Marianas College, which marked its 35th Charter Day. The appreciation awards were presented to these individuals who continue to assist the college and the community. Among the awardees are Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and Imperial Pacific International-Best Sunshine International, Ltd. majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Northern Marianas College acting president David Attao thanked Margaret Cui Lijie, majority shareholder of Imperial Pacific International-Best Sunshine International, for her company's outstanding community support and work.



Champion Finance is looking for Dynamic individuals who would like to be a part of our team for the following post.

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- Review collection reports to determine the status of collections and the amounts of outstanding balances.
- Set credit policies, credit lines, procedures and standards in conjunction with senior managers.
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Interested candidates are requested to submit their resumes or pick up an employment application at
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or email championfinancecnmi@gmail.com



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-16-010

TINIAN WATER SYSTEM PRESSURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the installation of pressure reducing stations and installation of 10-in PVC Waterline Project in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of the installation of approximately 1400 linear feet of 10-inch PVC water line complete with necessary valves and fittings, the relocation and replacement of two existing pressure reducing valves (PRV's), the installation of a new PRV, and several reconfigurations of the existing water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **April 21, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-16-010, Tinian Water System Pressure Improvements Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 12, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 22, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

DEA should get real on pot

Under the federal Controlled Substances Act, marijuana is classified as a schedule 1 drug, which means it has no medicinal value and is highly addictive. But the Drug Enforcement Administration is, once again, considering moving it to a less restrictive category that better reflects both its danger and the undeniable facts on the ground — that nearly half the states in the nation allow the use of cannabis for medical purposes, and several allow it to be used recreationally. The DEA told lawmakers that it intends to make a decision by July.

The schedule 1 designation for marijuana has been a ludicrously restrictive classification since it was imposed in 1970, lumping cannabis in with heroin and LSD. The DEA has twice considered and rejected requests to reclassify the drug over the last two decades. The last time was in 2011. Frankly, a change is long overdue.

The DEA's reluctance in the past to reclassify the drug has hindered research that could shed light on the uses (or dangers) of marijuana as a medicine, and could help guide smarter marijuana policies in general. Because it is a schedule 1 drug, researchers interested in studying its health effects have faced bureaucratic hurdles and strict controls, including limited legal access to the drug. Last year, just eight researchers received marijuana for medical study from the one government-sanctioned cannabis farm in the country. So, the federal government has effectively suppressed research on marijuana, and then authorities argue there are not enough long-term studies of the medicinal value and health risks of marijuana use to justify reclassifying it.

The lack of research hasn't stopped 23 states from allowing the use of the drug for pain relief and other medical purposes. But it has denied doctors and patients important information about the risks or benefits.

Nor has the schedule 1 classification stopped voters in four states from legalizing marijuana for adult use. Yet the DEA still treats marijuana as if it's as addictive as heroin and more dangerous than cocaine and methamphetamine, which are listed as schedule 2 drugs.

It's heartening that the federal government is reconsidering this misguided policy. The easiest, most sensible move would be for the DEA to reclassify marijuana so that it's treated as a prescription drug, complete with Food and Drug Administration oversight. The harder, but inevitable question as more states consider legalizing recreational use is whether federal authorities and lawmakers should remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act altogether so states can choose whether to regulate marijuana for adult consumption without running afoul of federal law.

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China on my Centimos

I opened a Postal Savings Bank in northern Luzon at 6. My pesetas were matched by Mother whenever I deposited. When asked by adults what I will do with my savings, I blurted out of the blues: "I will travel to China."

I heard my first Zhongwen chatter 1965 in HK, the "fragrant harbor" of the Brits, now a Special Administrative Region of the PRC called Xiang Jiang River (a redundancy since Xiang is a famous river in Kunming that feeds into the Yangtze and meanders to Canton and HK in the Pearl River basin; the word jiang also means "river").

Took the rails from Kowloon to the border a couple of times, and "felt" being in China I was taught to mysteriously fear (the Binondo variety in Manila and those from Fujian spoke Mandarin and the local dialect); my first mainland foray was shortly after the Tiananmen incident (Gate of Heavenly Peace) in Beijing '89. I visited Shanghai (saw Pu Dong Airport under construction in the middle of a rice field), Suzhou, Hangzhou, Xi'an and made my first trip to Taiwan.

Later, my wife took me to Wuxi and Nanjing in Jiangsu, Guilin in Guangxi, Chengdu, Ya'an, Kangding and Ping Le in Sichuan, Chongqing (one of four large municipalities that include Shanghai, Beijing, and Tianjin), Inner Mongolia grasslands in Manzhouli near Hulan lake through Shi Wei by the Amur to Mohe of Heilongjiang, Heihe on the China side of the Amur river bordering Russia's Far East, to Dalian, then Dandong by the Yalu River to Yanbian Autonomous area on the old Kogoryo empire. My Postal Savings' opening comment proved prescient. I picked up a good picture of residents' cross section in Mao's delineated China from Tumen to Kangding, Beijing to Guilin, and points in between.

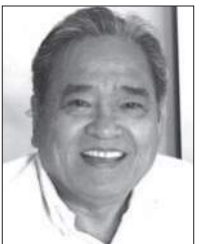
Other than the Russian Far East and Central Asia, my human development pedagogy intruded into many sites except the polar caps. I spent 2010-2014 teaching English to students at Shenyang Aerospace University until Beijing denied my working visa when it implemented the age limit on teachers in schools, already "in the books."

We had contract workers in Saipan's garment industry in the 1990s. The Saipan Oleai Resource Center of the United Methodist Church got in contact with labor, challenges on administrative and immigration of CWs. I was the local pastor and I became familiar with their struggle.

U.S. Citizenship Immigration Service and Homeland Security are now alarmed at the abuse of Chinese tourist visas in the local labor market. Overstaying tourists employed as cheap labor is

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

not uncommon. I hear of folks who are into sham marriages or false employ, just so someone of dubious status gets to stay. Not to justify the practice but to make it a bit more understandable, here's my limited perspective.

The 45-day tourist visa available at the airport hosts Chinese visitors. Now we have a construction boom on integrated resorts (aka casino), and related services at hotels, and private inns. Chinese tourists come in two flavors.

There are those who mean to seek their fortune, hawking soul to kin and neighbor back home to afford the trip, like many who came earlier eager to earn renminbi in the famed garment industry; some turned out to be victims of unscrupulous agencies who signed folks up for three years knowing that Saipan only recognized yearly contracts. I met some who came to the garment industry with three-year contracts, employed for three months and then were let go.

I met a few who overcame their despair and sought their fortune street-walking or taking cover at the pubs of the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan until the Blue Shirts pushed girth on street walkers. There are still a few who "buy" their CW status and retain a red light in their rooms.

The Filipina dancers undressed on stage and slid down a pole while friendly waitresses filled customers' glasses while they entertained; streetwalkers of Chinese descent took to a room and undressed. Sometimes, the latter served a drink if one tipped generously.

Now we have young Chinese visitors who rent the Chevy Camaro and Ford Mustang, and then, leave. We encourage more of those. We also have legal residents who petition relations. The elders do childcare or tend the store, so we do not mind.

See CHINA on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Of Pan-Pacific tradition

The upcoming Festival of the Pacific (FestPac) in Guam brought lasting memories of my official assignment as the NMI delegate to the South Pacific Commission (now community) held annually in Noumea, New Caledonia. It was there that was born the FestPac. It has since evolved into a Pacific-wide celebration.

I listened to music, chants, and watched dances tethered to tradition from the vast expanse of the Pacific, north and south of the equator. It brings up a missing aspect in Pacific Island literature known as “orature.” It’s basically stories told orally in chants or tales that was never penned by colonial writers from Europe and elsewhere.

Yes, orature is part of our indigenous literature. Unless you know it via our indigenous prism or lens, you’d be lost from, e.g., understanding the real essence of the hula dance and culture that aren’t part of the written literature of Pacific Island countries.

Humbling to see the emergence of Pacific Island writers who have begun setting the record straight on misinterpretation and misrepresentation of culture. It should wipe out colonial pedagogy we’ve taken as gospel truth for years.

I’ve attended official openings of the commission that included traditional chiefs. It’s sobering the drink of fresh coconut and dinner prepared for all delegates from different islands. The chief wanted delegates to rest and relax before converging the next day. I relish the words of wisdom of senior statesmen who came as delegates who defer to passages in the bible as they speak.

Yes, I’ve heard the music of our brothers and sisters from the far-flung islands of the Pacific. How beautiful the lyrics written of their struggle, the rainbow, love, colorful sunset, water rolling down branches of trees, crashing waves, walking by crystal streams up in the mountains, beautiful songs of birds in the forest, long journeys in canoes, touching the warmth of the sun and the time-honored passing of indigenous torch of leadership from our ancestors. Humbling!

So what’s unique about songs from the islands? It’s the unmatched melodic harmony. Recalled the choir and faithful of

over 1,000 people in a church in Tonga singing in unison in four voices. It was music in what a kanaka braddah said, “Eh, never been to heaven braddah? This is one more step for da kine heaven.” I can’t describe the beauty of the harmonic melody coming from over a thousand churchgoers.

I will never forget hands I’ve pressed, island felicitations, and the lasting friendship established and nurtured with fellow islanders! So wherever you may roam, orature and music are part and whole of an islander’s DNA. Whichever group you listen to you’d note the melodic tune in their voices. Indeed, it reflects their sense of harmony as a people in humble settings back home.

■ ■ ■

Communal Sharing: Through the years I’ve searched to understand the gravitating aspect of culture throughout the Pacific. It is found in the “seamless communal sharing” naturally embedded in every island country and territory. It pulls us together sharing food, drinks, stories, laughter, music, etc.

The camaraderie spreads and descends naturally among us. If you were not an islander, then you’d have difficulty understanding why we get along so well no matter where we meet. We gravitate almost instantly be it at a gathering in Texas, New Jersey or in the islands. This too is part of our DNA.

I’ve heard the voice of our people (mix of islanders) singing familiar tunes. I’ve even heard some of our Chamorros sing Christmas songs in June. It’s a bit emotional as they long for home and the familiar faces they remember. Well, the next time you hear people singing Christmas melodies in June at least you now know they must be islanders from the Marianas.

Yes, communal sharing in the NMI was strong up to the late ’60s, you know, neighbors sharing farm harvest or fresh fish catch. It slowly faded as villagers moved to new homestead subdivisions. Now, it’s, “Tan Maria, this is four dollars per pound.” Ai, the shift in that humbling neighborly relationship we’ve nurtured through the years.

The demands of modernity are disorienting. It’s you against the high cost of living while your income stays the same for over twenty years. But didn’t senators recently give

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



themselves \$2,500 per month for expenses? Could the visionary Senate President Francisco Borja explain this to normal taxpayers? Are you any different with an employee mowing lawn along road shoulders?

■ ■ ■

As the quality of life sinks deeper into the abyss of involuntary poverty our cultural instinct in communal sharing slides in. At the center of this hardship is the family unit. We pitch in to help the ones that really need assistance. It’s the lasting aspect of our cultural tradition that has held us together in these very bad times.

■ ■ ■

It’s tradition to build the first family home. If this involved long-term real estate loan you’d eventually come to meet eviction notices for failing to meet your monthly installment. In brief, is there such a thing as “lifetime” employment here to ensure meeting family obligations until it is fully paid? This is a concern we’ve quietly braved, muted! How many are in this situation today or down the road?

It’s a challenge to anyone who thinks he or she could lead the NMI to new plateaus in economic prosperity. As it is there’s nothing but a blurred future for these isles. Whatever happened to the “solutions driven” team? Have they been driven out of town? Isn’t it your fiduciary duty to improve the wellbeing of the people in the villages? *Dios mihu!* Must be the bunch I saw at a grocery store with tails tightly tucked between their legs.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NMDism

I recently had an evaluative, healthy discussion with a local guy who went to great lengths to explain his concerns about the future of the Chamorros or as he put it, “us NMDs.” He pointed out that Saipan should be for the Chamorros and Carolinians only as this is their land.

I was not surprised with his concerns and opinions, after all, he is a Chamorro. I pointed out that if he owned a parcel of land, that land was his, but to claim Saipan as his, borders not only on being comical, but ridiculous. I also asked why so many are so focused on being “Chamorro” instead of being Saipanese. When one asks an American what he or she is, the typical answer would be “American.” A person from Germany would be German, one from Spain, a Spaniard, and one from China, Chinese. He gave me a confused look. Huh?

We’re beginning to get hung up on our ethnicity that we miss the logic behind this whole mess with race, color and creed, especially Guamanians. But most people here simply do not care. But if Chamorros need to be Chamorros, so be it. And Saipan, Tinian, and Rota along with the Northern Islands, are home to the Chamorros who are recognized as indigenous to these islands and Guam to the south. But these islands, now, are also home to people from all over the world, Filipinos, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Germans, Russians, Hungarians, Greeks, Bangladeshis, Malaysians, Yanks, and Johnny Rebs, etc. So many children were born here of parents from other countries and although the children are not Chamorros, they are Saipanese, and American citizens, with SSN, and birth records at CCHC, as well.

NMD is a messy, heartbreaking subject and has been since it

was included in the CNMI Constitution. This is perhaps the one term most commonly associated with Chamorro pride. But in and of itself, the term NMD does not offer too much to those who qualify. Aside from being a typecast term, it’s quite senseless. And per the CNMI Constitution, one had to be born prior to 1950, be a TTPI citizen, and domiciled in the NMI prior to the advent of the Covenant and Constitution. Some folks did talk of correcting the guidelines to label those not 100 percent NMD by the term “blood quantum” but how does one go about proving he or she had Chamorro or Carolinian blood? Or, is “Blood” in this case only a metaphor? Could we know a Chamorro or Carolinian person when we meet one? When a person talks, can we detect the local accent, traceable family name, etc., “familian Muzea of Gualo Rai,” or “familian Pugas of Fanaganam,” for example? Prove it through the court via a visit to the hospital for blood sampling or a family tree? Oh, and by the way, those children adopted by an NMD are 100 percent NMD regardless of the fact that their parents were from another country. What about when the adoptive parents of a local child are non-NMDs?

So, does one actually benefit from being an NMD? Maybe, but other than pride, I cannot put a finger on anything worth discussing. Why was it even introduced at all? Oh, the Article 12 issue? Ninety-nine percent negative. The fact that it restricts land ownership to only NMDs negatively impacts the economy, land values, etc., to an extent, leaving most landowners proud but a bit disappointed. Of the factors which play a vital role in determining how much our properties are worth, Article 12 plays a detrimental role to landowners in that they can only sell to another NMD. Leases and rentals are usually dirt cheap leaving the landowners wanting for more. Investments, speculation, size, and location, are key but think about this, if you could sell your

land or lease out beyond the 55 years, for millions, why settle for \$750 a month? I suppose dumb, rich, and happy, do not go together in this case. But all these issues will be history as a generation of non-NMDs CNMI’s voters start massing at the polls in a few short years. These non-NMDs’ CNMI future voters, do they have the numbers to effect drastic changes in the CNMI? Take a look at the 2010 CNMI Census and decide for yourself, and watch the local consternation. Tough days ahead at the polls, NMDs.

Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan

CHINA

From Page 10

But there are those who come on the 45-day visa and decide to renew when allowed, illegally overstay quietly under someone’s employ if they can. Some employers of CWs are empty “shell” companies who “sell” the status; workers pay and take the allowed second job!

The delay in the issuance of CW permits came from the discovery that the program is full of holes. The incentive to recoup debts by CWs is too strong that some approach the deal as a once-in-a-lifetime deal and pay gratuities under the table.

I recently returned to my favorite store to clarify why there was a charge of two packs of noodles on my receipt. The Chinese storekeeper stammered her English with a smile: “that’s for peanuts. Peanuts, noodles, same-same.”

OK, Han (short for “honey”). Next time, I pay closer attention.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for saving my life—twice!

The CNMI's Medical Referral Program is a "lifesaving" service that we should all be thankful for and I couldn't help but think about how the program is challenged every week to meet the financial obligations that amount to millions over a year's time. I know from my inquiries that the governor and Mr. Antonio Agulto are seriously working hard to shore up the Medical Referral Program and there is also a need for many of the services performed in Hawaii and in the Philippines to be shifted to Guam where the new Guam Regional Medical City can now perform many if not most of the procedures, surgeries, and services which will also be a lot cheaper and even more socially preferred due to Guam's close location and the many family ties in Guam.

But the real challenge to the Medical Referral Program is funding, so if you think everyone should be able to go on Medical Referral—if you think that the Referral Program should not have to worry about funding but be free to concentrate on saving lives—if you think that people with illnesses, especially those facing death, should have access to marijuana—if you have learned that criminalization does not work and that legalization does work, then you can help the Referral Program and solve many other financial challenges of the CNMI by supporting the legalization of marijuana. You can help with a simple phone call or email encouraging your representative and/or senator to support legalization which is a solution to many of the CNMI's financial woes! One people, one direction for legalization to help us all!

Ambrose M Bennett

Referral patient

CUC...but they said...

Last week's article (Not in the *Saipan Tribune*) regarding that purported \$38 million water "loss" has finally prompted me to write yet another letter (after a three-year hiatus) attempting to bring to light the simple fact that CUC still has no idea when it comes to math.

Since 2003, I have written over 20 letters solely about CUC and its unbelievable record of presenting unmitigated fabrications to the public, to the Legislature, and to anyone else who is forced to listen. Even the well-qualified and competent stream of general managers we have seen (FORCED by EPA) over the last few years cannot be held as an improvement—because they all left after relatively short tenures.

Way back when (2003-2006) we got rid of a meddling and incompetent "board" shortly after they proposed raising the power rate from a long-standing 11.5 cents per Kwh to over 33 cents—then perceived as an unconscionable and staggering deception. For some strange reason, a "board" reappeared a few years later and has ever since been trying, in cahoots with a totally incompetent Legislature, to destroy what was left. They have pretty much succeeded and that is a primary reason why former leaders have disappeared and future possibilities are hiding out.

While the power "scare" of Summer 2013 nearly got things back on track, in spite of inflated and unrevealed "real costs," the situation is once again becoming dire indeed...and now we are hearing what amounts to yet another nail in the coffin: WATER losses!

Supposedly, there are TWO qualified and competent "managers" handling this situation: water manager Richard Wasser and chief engineer John Riegel. They, along with interim director Gary Camacho, presented a story about how much water CUC is producing and purportedly wasting (or "losing"). Here is what they SAY:

Camacho: "CUC produces 10 million gallons a day"

Wasser: "16 percent of total water produced is lost due to leaks and failed meters"

Riegel: "10 percent of leaks have already been fixed"

Unattributed: "CUC is losing an estimated \$38 million in water revenue every YEAR due to unaccounted for..."

When that story came out, many readers made good use of the comments section to ask questions and proffer answers or criticisms. Some stakeholders made comments to reporters' inquiries to be included in the story:

Torres: "Check the pipe from the wells to the tank"

Camacho: "Non-working meters, theft, meter tampering, fire hydrants, and unmetered sources and 29 pending cases at DPS" (supposedly a reference to an inept ability to prosecute).

As one commenter stated: "CUC's figures don't add up" (Pedro Malas)

Pedro, I've been showing just how poorly CUC's figures "don't add up" since 2003. Now, let's take a look at recently given "figures"...again.

If CUC produces 10M gallons per day and loses 16 percent of it, that would be 1,600,000 gallons per day lost. If CUC's estimate of losses is \$38 million per year, that amounts to \$104,110 per DAY in lost revenue.

CUC charges customers by the 1,000 gallons. Let's say (for ease of computation) a customer uses 10K gallons per month. CUC charges a rate of \$1.74 per thousand gallons (for amounts between 3K and 15K gallons). There is also a water "electric" charge of \$3.72 per thousand gallons and a monthly base rate charge of \$10.86. Add all that up and our fictitious customer will pay a bill of \$65.46 for that 10,000 gallons of water used in one month.

Now, let's look at what CUC "says" that same 10,000 gallons, when "lost," costs them: At 1,600,000 gallons per day "lost" and a daily cost of \$104,110 (taken directly from the figures provided in the article by CUC itself), that translates to \$0.065 per gallon cost. Charged at the usual CUC rate of "per 1,000 gallons" that equals \$65 per thousand. For the same 10,000 gallons of customer usage, CUC estimates its cost at \$650.00 PER DAY or ... TEN times that of our customer for the same 10,000 gallons of water! That's also a little over 33 gallons of water "lost" every day for every single man, woman, and child on Saipan.

And here's even more facts for CUC to chew on: The USGS estimates that average daily water consumption throughout the U.S. is between 80 and 100 gallons per day per person for all uses. The 2010 census put Saipan's population at 48,220 persons. Let's say the average person on Saipan consumes the higher figure of 100 gallons per day...that's a total daily consumption of 4,822,000 gallons. So why does CUC produce 10 million gallons? OK, let's subtract the average per capita usage from the 10M: we get 5,178,000 gallons. Now let's also subtract the "losses" CUC claims (1,600,000). That still leaves an OVER production of 3,578,000 gallons per day...more than double the amount CUC claims is "lost"! We also know there are many apartment buildings and families that use private wells and don't count in usage produced by CUC—but are not included here.

How do you produce that much water and not be able to account for nearly half of it? Does anyone realize just how much water that is? Well, an Olympic-sized swimming pool measures 50 meters long by 25 meters wide by 2 meters deep (standard). That volume translates to a mere 660,430 gallons...that's nearly four and a half Olympic-sized pools full of water...every day...lost! Even the large water storage tanks of CUC on Saipan hold an average of 1,000,000 gallons when full. Is CUC unable to account for three and a half of these giant tanks full of water...every day in addition to the amount CUC says it knows is "lost"? That much water flowing freely out of tanks and pipes and hydrants and faucets every day would surely be more than noticed by many people!

Even if CUC were to add in "industrial uses," "business uses," "unmetered uses," "theft," and anything else you can think of, there is still no way to account for CUC's estimate of production or loss. Just like a few years ago, CUC had no way to account for the actual amount of electricity produced, transmitted, or lost. I don't believe CUC has, to this day, any way to measure the actual amount of water produced at the well-head. Does CUC have any way to measure the amount of water entering its distribution tanks vs. the amount coming from the well? Does CUC have any way to measure the amount of water entering its tanks vs. the amount of water actually entering the distribution stream (from the tanks)? Does CUC have any "choke" points at which it can measure the actual amount of water going from one area to another? Does CUC have any way to actually measure anything? And that rather silly statement by Riegel about having repaired "10 percent of leaks" is just that: silly and unsubstantiated! How can he possibly know that 10 percent have been "fixed" without knowing the exact number of total "leaks"?

I know that CUC has many very good "line" employees in their water division...and they work hard to get water where it should be as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. But all this malarkey put out by CUC "managers" coupled with even greater malarkey from an unmitigated sham of a "board" (save one member) simply undercuts and destroys all the good work attempted by well-intentioned "line" workers—so just stop it, CUC!

So, c'mon CUC, stop slathering the CPUC, the Legislature, the EPA, and U.S. with faked-out, made up nonsense baloney like you have for the last 12 years and just tell us that you don't really know what's going on in your system and you don't have the funds to install equipment that could find out what's going on.

None of what you have stated comports with all the "press releases" you have foisted upon everyone. What happened to all those "smart" meters that you got hundreds of thousands of federal dollars to replace every meter on the island and add those who had been previously unmetered (twice!)? What happened to your water leak detection task force so highly touted as "the answer"? What happened to the 15 employees trained by Mr. Scott Wicklund in 2012 at a cost of over \$14,000 federal dollars and all the leak detection equipment given to you? Do you have any figures that can be verified as factual? Where are you CUC?

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle, Jr.,

Formerly of Tinian

CNMI gun laws

The recent U.S. District Court decision relative to the "right to bear arms" in the CNMI has shaken the community to its very roots. Perhaps, however, the existing CNMI firearms laws already meet the fundamental requirement of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The Second Amendment to the US Constitution was introduced into the U.S. Congress during George Washington's non-partisan, first administration by then Congressman James Madison of Virginia and ratified on December 15, 1791, along with several other previously promised amendments limiting the powers of Congress and establishing what has become popular known as "The Bill of Rights."

The Second Amendment as adopted by Congress simply states: "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

At that time, England was at war with France, again. American shippers were doing brisk business with France's Caribbean colonies as a result of France's support during the American War of Independence. Although England had recognized American independence in the Treaty of Paris of 1783, she continued to harass American shipping, impress American sailors into the Royal Navy, and provide Native American tribes with guns to resist America's westward expansion (Perhaps America's first foreign terrorist threat?).

Because another war with England on American soil appeared likely (It began in 1812.), the second amendment to the U.S. Constitution provided a mechanism to keep Americans armed and prepared for war, at no cost to the government. Of course, the selection of guns available for purchase at that time was limited; most people had muskets primarily intended for hunting wild game.

Although an armed invasion of the CNMI or insurrection from within is highly unlikely, current CNMI law does provide for its citizens to own firearms; .410 shotguns and .22 caliber rifles, both of which are very deadly weapon. The people of the CNMI have found these weapons to be quite satisfactory for killing cows and pigs, hunting wild game, and defending their homes for the last 40 years (In fact, it is a carry-over law from TTPI times).

The question is: Is the CNMI required to provide a mechanism for anyone to buy any kind of weapon they want?

Every state in the Union has a different firearm law. The CNMI has a firearm law.

If someone feels the need to own a gun to protect their home, a pump-action, Mossberg .410 is a very effective weapon.

Perhaps the question of changing the CNMI firearms law to include ownership of handguns (submachine guns?) might be worth the cost of a special plebiscite to determine the true feelings of the people.

And, perhaps, if we could somehow get the question of CNMI's existing gun laws to the U.S. Supreme Court—does our existing law meet the minimum requirements of the Second Amendment—that would be most interesting.

Don Farrell

Marpo Heights, Tinian

Attention Hopwood School Class of '66

I lived on Saipan in the '60s and graduated from Hopwood School in 1966. My dad worked for Pacific Micronesian Lines and my mom was a schoolteacher at Chalan Kanoa Elementary. I attended Hopwood High in the 10th and 12th grades (was with my grandma in Oklahoma for the 11th). I'm wondering if Hopwood High (I believe the high school has a new name and location now) Class of '66 is having a 50th Annual Reunion this spring or summer. We were the second graduating class; there were around 60 some of us ... Rosie Mendola, Joaquin Villagomez, Joaquin Villeneuve, Evelyn Reyes, Connie Olapai, Oscar Rasa, and many, many other friends.

Are you aware of any plans being made for a 50th reunion? I could not find any information online, and thought the newspaper might know.

I currently live in Liberty, Texas, and am moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the first of May. If the Class of 1966 is having a reunion, I would love to attend. Any news of my classmates and the Class of '66 anyone may have is much appreciated.

Jim Kerr

Liberty, Texas

MCS hosts College Week

Mount Carmel School's Student Council last week hosted the school's inaugural College Week. Led by Student Council president Thomas Manglona, the week promoted a college-bound culture among the student body.

MCS College Week kicked off with a two-day college fair in which professionals from across the island represented their college alma maters at booths in the first floor hallway of the school's Maturana Building. Students then had the opportunity to talk with the guests about their college experience in speed-dating-style round-robin sessions. Colleges represented included the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Michigan, and the University of Southern California.

MCS 2005 AlumKnight and MIT alumnus, Emmanuel Borja, was happy to help students prepare for college. "Mount Carmel School has always been good at supporting students in going to college, with programs like the SAT Boot Camp, but this College Week takes that preparation even further." In talking about the value of a college education, he said, "College opens all kinds of doors, and the best college experiences give you skills that you can carry into a variety of fields."

On Wednesday, representatives from Northern Marianas College Fi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Knights sport their college gear. From left: Elly Mendez '17 for the University of Hawaii, Thomas Manglona '17 for UC Berkeley, and Sung Hun Run '17 the University of Notre Dame.

nancial Aid Office met with Sophomores and Juniors to help them learn more about how to pay for college. NMC Financial Aid director, Daisy Propst, led the presentation, which covered everything from financial aid, scholarships, grants, work study, and student loans.

MCS Junior Nathaniel Snodgrass found the information very helpful. "They were very informative about the FAFSA [the Free Application for

Federal Student Aid] and the scholarships we can apply to." He added, "It also gives us a headstart as Juniors as we prepare for our Senior year."

MCS College Week continued on Thursday with College Gear Day, in which students represented their favorite colleges with clothing and accessories from those colleges. Students were seen donning shirts from New York University, sweatshirts from UC Irvine, and jackets from the

Camacho lauds staging of Jr. High Mock Trial

Last April 2, the 2016 Jr. High Mock Trial event was held at the CNMI Judiciary House of Justice in Susupe, Saipan. Schools from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan participated.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho did the welcoming remarks. Camacho thanked the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and the CNMI Judiciary for its many years of support for the Jr. High Mock Trial. Camacho, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and attorney and CNMI Bar president Jennifer Dockter presided over the mock trial rounds.

Special thanks to the teacher-coaches and attorney-coaches and everyone

who made the event a success.

Camacho said that, "I have been involve the Jr. High Mock Trial since the beginning almost 12 years ago. And each year it gets bigger and better as more schools and students get involve. The students learn about the roles of the court, witnesses and attorneys and how to resolve disputes in a legal and civilize fashion in a court of law. The students also gain confidence in public speaking and of course have lots of fun. We hold the Jr. High Mock Trial on Saturday each year to allow the parents, family members, and classmates to come and watch these hard working students."

The fictitious case is the same case use in the High School Mock Trial involving a civil lawsuit involving a person driving a car while texting colliding with a bicyclist going into an intersection when the light was red.

The schools that took part in the 2016 Jr. High Mock Trial were Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Junior High School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, Dandan Middle School, Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, San Antonio Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, and Tinian Junior Senior High School. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho poses with several of the participants of the 2016 Jr. High Mock Trial held last April 2 at the Guma Hustisia.

University of Notre Dame.

College Week concluded with college-bound Seniors meeting with Juniors to offer tips and guidance on the college admissions process.

Student Council president Thomas Manglona was very happy with how the week turned out.

"Every student I spoke with said they appreciated the activities that

were hosted and people who came in to share their experiences." Referring to his own experience, he added, "Having now gone through the college application process myself, coordinating College Week and having students start talking about college early is just one way to ease the anxiety that comes with preparing for life after high school." (PR)

History of ASCNMI's Quiz Nite

By TOM THORNBURGH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It all began like thunder clapping in October of 2009 when the Autism Society of the CNMI under the leadership of president Barbara Merfalen and vice president Romeo Cuellar. ASCNMI launched the very first Quiz Nite trivial challenge!

Quiz Nite has taken root in our community, and is now an annual event for bragging rights of who knows the most about disabilities, and issues surrounding it, with a healthy and equal mix of totally random trivia.

Since ASCNMI and its partners did not know anything about putting on an event of such great magnitude as this, we had to go to the experts at Wild Bill's in Garapan with Glen Hunter and Tina Sablan who hold a Quiz Night event regularly.

After extensive research into this topic, soliciting from many good folks on island, and securing a venue at a great discount, thanks to Wayne Pangelinan, we finally felt comfortable enough to take the plunge and find out if we had what it took for Quiz Nite.

We set the date into stone for Quiz Nite I (QN1) on Dec. 3, 2010, where the great battle of knowledge would play out, culminate brainpower and maybe even blow up like the big bang!

So the scene was set at the Royal Taga Ball Room in the World Resort. A mix of teams from all corners of Saipan proudly stepped up to the challenge. From junior high students came Team Halitai of Hopwood Junior High with principal Jonas Barcinas, to teams like Dr. Ada's Clinicians. From the beachside, came a team, with Jerry the Entertainer of the Saipan Sunset Cruises to As Terlaje hillside with several teams from the Northern Marianas College who came to play for keeps.

I, unfortunately for everyone was the emcee, and game host, but hey, dinner also came with the event! We had five rounds of 10 questions each and 50 percent of all questions had to deal with autism or other disabilities like "What does ADHD stand for?" The other half were totally random trivial questions such as "where is lake Titicaca?"

In anticipation for unsportsmanlike conduct, we setup stringent rules like "No Rudeness" and "No use of hand held electronic devices."

Then came, the calm before the storm, as dinner was served and everyone ate, folks began to get excited like a typhoon brewing. Ten minutes before 7pm, the teams began to make up their team names and gather together at one table.

Like horses out of the gates, the

trivia battle began after the first question of Round 1.

We had teachers, doctors, and lawyers, among other brilliant folks on island battling every which way with each and every question.

The breaks could not have come sooner as tensions were high and each team wanted to win as we heard their voices rise with feverish pitch as they tried to explain why their answer was the correct one. I saw awesome teamwork, and the leading team kept switching every rounds adding and taking away from the hopes of many teams.

Finally, as the end of Round 5 approached, the judges were nervous as they had ultimate say in who scored more points and thus winners of QN1. They could only hope that there was no tie.

When the storm cleared, it was Team Apaka, which means "White" in Chamorro raised the 1st place Golden Trophy! Team Apaka was the smallest team, but that did not matter as attorney Mike White with his lovely wife and one of their grandchildren walked away champions of the very first ASCNMI Quiz Nite.

This began the tradition, and over the next years we have continued this event improving it each time we held a Quiz Nite. QN2 Champions were again Mike White and his team of attorneys who taunted the other teams with the name "Catch us if you can." QN3 was won by team "One Hullava Knight" who are teachers from Kagman High School and maybe Mount Carmel alumni, too.

This year, the stakes are higher than ever before, because Quiz Nite is in its fifth cycle!

Our returning champions from QN4 the Beauties and the Beast's Diane Zede has met with me and expressed her team's desire to repeat!

Will our QN4 Champions continue their bragging rights into 2017?

Only one way to figure that out and that is to come and join Quiz Nite V at the Grandvrio Hotel on Saturday, April 16, 2016, from 6pm to 10pm for one of the best trivia challenges around island. Tickets are \$30 a piece and include dinner from 6pm to 7pm before Quiz Nite V blows the roof off Grandvrio!

Spectators are welcomed like Sappuro Rayphand who just watched one year as the drama unfolded.

So, as the secretary of the Autism Society of the CNMI (ASCNMI), I invite you to Quiz Nite V to support autism awareness in our small and beautiful island home.

For tickets and for special accommodations, please call me at 783-6378, or at NMPASI at 235-7273/4, TTY & Fax at 235-7275 or email at tomthornburgh@gmail.com.

Do you have what it takes to be QNV champions? Prove it!

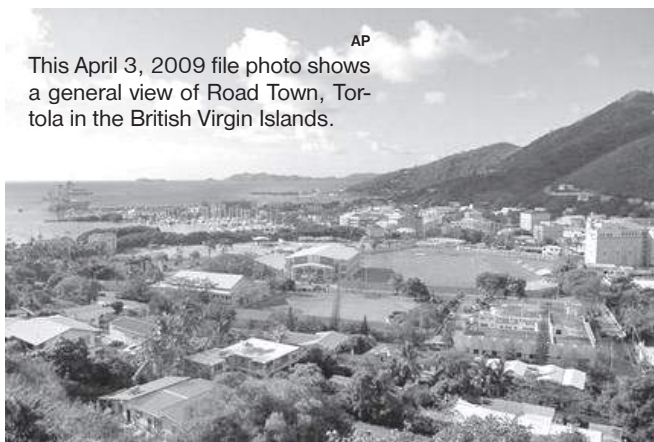
Business

Tiny British Virgin Islands has big role in leaked documents

TORTOLA, British Virgin Islands (AP)—A thriving financial services industry that evolved over the last 30 years in the British Virgin Islands made it one of the most popular places in the world to form a corporation, turning a sleepy cluster of Caribbean islands into a global hub of finance.

Now the British Virgin Islands has come under scrutiny like never before thanks to the leak of confidential documents from a Panama-based law firm that specializes in offshore finance.

More than half the 200,000 offshore companies set up by the Mossack Fonseca law firm, including ones owned by the father of British Prime Minister David Cameron and relatives of Chinese leader Xi Jinping, were registered in the BVI, according to reports coordinated by the International Consortium of Investigative



This April 3, 2009 file photo shows a general view of Road Town, Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.

Journalists.

BVI officials have sought in recent days to address the reports while defending financial oversight in a territory where incorporated entities outnumber residents by a ratio of more than 10-to-1 and blue-suited lawyers and bankers on the streets of Tortola often outnumber tourists.

"If you see articles that say jurisdictions like the BVI are

facilitators of illegitimate activity, that is incorrect," Financial Secretary Neil Smith said Friday. "Yes, it occurs, but it also occurs in jurisdictions that are not seen as offshore financial centers."

The British Virgin Islands, an overseas British territory of about 30,000 people near Puerto Rico, is the world's leading center for company incorporation, according to

democracy activists.

On such issues, Washington is at odds with Beijing, which sees strict control over information as essential to protecting the Communist Party's monopoly on power.

China restricts access to online materials by requiring traffic to pass through state-controlled gateways linked to the global Internet. Controls have been tightened since President Xi Jinping became party leader in 2012.

The filters, known informally as the Great Firewall of China, are in line with Beijing's advocacy of "Internet sovereignty," or allowing governments to impose control on the freewheeling Internet

within their borders. Xi called in a speech in December for the creation of a global "governance system" for cyberspace.

This week, Chinese Web users have been blocked from seeing news reports about documents from a law firm in Panama that say relatives of political figures including Xi own offshore companies.

State media have carried brief reports on the revelations but with no mention of Chinese figures.

Chinese regulators block access not just to websites operated by human rights or pro-democracy activists but also to dozens of news, entertainment and social media services that operate freely in other countries.

a certain degree destroy the balance" of forces that exists in the South Caucasus region.

Both Azerbaijani and Armenian forces this month have used artillery, tanks and other weapons on a scale not seen since a separatist war ended in 1994. The war left Karabakh, officially part of Azerbaijan, under the control of local ethnic Armenian forces and the Armenian military.

The recent fighting has killed about 75 soldiers from both sides along with several civilians. A Russia-brokered truce went into effect Tuesday, but both sides accused the other of violating it daily.

The Russian arms sales to

energy-rich Azerbaijan have angered many in Armenia, which has hosted a Russian military base and kept close security and economic ties to Russia. But the parallel arms sales reflect Russia's desire to expand its influence in the strategic region, a key conduit for energy resources from the Caspian Sea to the West.

Russia has joined the United States and France in acting as mediators in Nagorno-Karabakh peace talks under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which have dragged on since 1994 with no visible results.

Nation

US water systems repeatedly exceed federal standard for lead

GALESBURG, Ill. (AP)—This railroad town promotes its ties to Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan and the poet Carl Sandburg. But Galesburg's long history also shows in a hidden way: Aging pipes have been leaking lead into the drinking water for decades.

Blood tests show cause for concern. One in 20 children under the age of 6 in Knox County had lead levels exceeding the state standard for public health intervention, a rate six times higher than the Illinois average, in 2014.

Galesburg offers just one example of how the problem of lead-tainted drinking water goes far beyond Flint, Michigan, the former auto manufacturing center where the issue exploded into a public health emergency when

the city's entire water system was declared unsafe.

An Associated Press analysis of Environmental Protection Agency data found that nearly 1,400 water systems serving 3.6 million Americans exceeded the federal lead standard at least once between Jan. 1, 2013, and Sept. 30, 2015. The affected systems are large and small, public and private, and include 278 systems that are owned and operated by schools and day care centers in 41 states.

Galesburg officials downplay the water's potential contribution to lead poisoning, which can affect children's mental development. But city councilor Peter Schwartzman called the AP's findings alarming.

"Most people in Galesburg are not really being told

that there is a problem," said Schwartzman, an environmental scientist. "I'm very close to this and didn't know it. I feel ignorant."

The AP reviewed 25 years of sampling data reported by 75,000 drinking water systems that are subject to a federal lead rule that took effect in 1991. Details of the EPA data were first reported by USA Today.

While no amount of lead exposure is considered safe, the rule calls for water systems to keep levels below 15 parts per billion.

If more than 10 percent of sampled high-risk homes are above that level, water agencies must inform customers about the problem and take steps such as adding chemicals to control corrosion and prevent leaching of the lead.

2016 candidates scoop up delegates in West, bid for NY love

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bernie Sanders is pointing to his growing string of statewide wins and Hillary Clinton to her still-commanding lead in the delegate hunt as the Democratic rivals jostle for momentum heading into New York's big primary later this month. The Republicans, too, are trying to scoop up delegates out West while bidding for some New York love.

With his win Saturday in Wyoming, Sanders has now won seven of the last eight state contests. But his latest victory did nothing to help him in the delegate chase: He and Clinton each got seven delegates.

"Now that we are in the second half of this campaign, we are going to state after state which I think have a more progressive outlook," Sanders said. "We are in this race to win."

Clinton, looking right past the Wyoming results, told a crowd in Brooklyn that she needs a big win in New York on April 19 to help her quickly lock up the Democratic nomination. She added that the sooner the nomination fight ends, "the sooner we can go after the Republicans full time."

Trying to claim a cloak of inevitability for his candidate, Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said in a statement that she "has a nearly insurmountable lead in pledged delegates that will become harder and harder to overcome after

each contest."

On the Republicans side, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz completed his sweep of Colorado's 34 delegates by locking up the remaining 13 at the party's state convention in Colorado Springs. He already had collected 21 delegates and visited the state to try to pad his numbers there.

Trump organized late in Colorado and left the state convention up to his organizers, and spent about a half-hour on Saturday touring the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum in lower Manhattan.

He and Clinton found a rare point of agreement in poking back at Cruz for his earlier criticism of "New York values."



ACROSS THE NATION

Official: Ex-FBI agent was gunman in Texas base shooting

DALLAS (AP)—A former FBI agent who later enlisted in the U.S. Air Force was identified Saturday as the man who killed his commander at an air base in San Antonio before turning the gun on himself. A statement from the Air Force identified the two men as Tech. Sgt. Steven D. Bellino and Lt. Col. William A. Schroeder. The statement did not name the gunman, but a federal official close to the investigation said Bellino opened fire Friday at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The official spoke on condition of

anonymity because the person isn't authorized to speak publicly about the case. The official said Bellino was an FBI agent for less than two years before resigning in 2013 and later enlisting in the Air Force. Authorities have not confirmed why Schroeder was targeted. He was commander of the 342nd Training Squadron.

Boston Globe prints fake front page satirizing Trump

BOSTON (AP)—The editorial board of The Boston Globe is using a satirical front page to express its uneasiness with a potential Donald Trump presidency.

The newspaper has printed a satirical front page for its Sunday "Ideas" section. The page is dated April 9, 2017, and features a large photo of Trump below dominant headline that reads "Deportations to Begin." The accompanying story has Trump calling on Congress to fund a deportation program amid protests. Another article focuses on a plunging stock market. Some jokes are included, such as a mention of Yellowstone National Park being renamed for Trump. In an editorial, the Globe calls the satire "an exercise in taking a man at his word." The Trump campaign didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

US cites Chinese Internet filters as trade barrier

BEIJING (AP)—The American government has cited Chinese Internet controls as a trade barrier in a report that comes as Beijing tries to block its public from seeing news online about the finances of leaders' families.

Chinese filters, which block access to websites including the Google search engine and social media such as Twitter, are a "significant burden" on businesses, the U.S. Trade Representative said in an annual report on trade conditions.

It gave no indication Washington plans to take action but highlights the economic cost of pervasive Chinese censorship that also draws criticism from human rights and pro-

Russia defends selling arms to both Azerbaijan and Armenia

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia on Saturday defended its policy of selling arms to both Armenia and Azerbaijan, whose military forces have faced off in a sharp escalation of fighting around separatist Nagorno-Karabakh.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said if Russia stopped selling arms, both countries would simply seek new suppliers.

"They would buy weapons in other countries, and the degree of their deadliness wouldn't change," he told Russian state television following visits to the capitals of Armenia and Azerbaijan. "But at the same time, this could to

Asia

Massive fire kills at least 84 in south India temple complex

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, India (AP)—A massive fire broke out during a fireworks display in a south Indian temple early Sunday, killing more than 80 people and injuring at least 200 more, a top official said.

The fire started when a spark from a fireworks show ignited a separate batch of fireworks that were being stored at the Puttingal temple complex in Paravoor village, a few hours north of Kerala's state capital of Thiruvananthapuram, State Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala.

Thousands had been packed into the temple complex when a big explosion erupted around 3 a.m., officials said. The blaze then spread quickly through the temple, trapping devotees within.

At least 84 people were killed, said a Kerala police official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to give his name to journalists.

Local TV channels broadcast images of huge clouds of white smoke billowing from the temple, as fireworks were



AP
In this image made from video, debris is seen following a fire and explosion at a temple in Kollam, in the southern Indian state of Kerala, early Sunday, April 10, 2016.

still going off in the night sky. Successive explosions from the building storing the fireworks sent huge chunks of concrete flying as far as a kilometer (a half mile), according to resident Jayashree Harikrishnan.

"Huge pieces of concrete were flying through the air. Chunks landed in our yard," she said.

By morning, firefighters had brought the blaze under control, officials said. Rescuers were sifting through the

wreckage in search of survivors, while backhoes were clearing the debris and ambulances ferried the injured to nearby hospitals.

Every year, the temple holds a competitive fireworks display, with different groups putting on successive light shows for thousands of devotees gathered for the last day of a seven-day festival honoring the goddess Bhadrakali, a southern Indian incarnation of the Hindu goddess Kali.

PH clash leaves 18 soldiers, 5 militants dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military suffered its largest single-day combat loss so far this year when 18 soldiers were killed in fierce fighting with Abu Sayyaf extremists that also left five Islamic militants dead, including a Moroccan fighter, the military said Sunday.

At least 53 other soldiers were wounded in Saturday's daylong clashes with the Abu Sayyaf militants and allied gunmen in the hinterlands bordering the towns of Tipo Tipo and Al-Barka on Basilan island, regional military

spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan and other army officials said.

The large combat casualties were reported as the Philippines marked the Day of Valor Saturday to remember Filipino veterans who died in World War II.

Government forces were deployed to kill or capture Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon, who has publicly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and has been hunted for years for his alleged involvement in several terrorist attacks, three military officials told The Associated Press Saturday. They spoke

on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak publicly about the military assault.

Washington has offered a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to Hapilon's capture and prosecution.

The Abu Sayyaf militants, many of whom were armed with M203 grenade launchers, apparently managed to reinforce their ranks quickly as the fighting raged and gathered between 100 and 150 fighters, allowing them to inflict heavy casualties on government troops, the officials said.

Taiwan leader visits island, urges peace in contested waters

PENGJIA ISLET, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou called for peace in Asia's contested waters on Saturday as he visited a small island in the East China Sea, one of his last symbolic foreign policy moves before leaving office next month.

Ma's visit to Pengjia, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of Taiwan proper, was his administration's second propaganda trip to an island in three weeks. It came four years after Ma last visited Pengjia to propose a plan to address territorial disputes among China, Taiwan and Japan over the nearby chain known as Senkaku in Japanese

and Diaoyutai in Chinese.

During his eight years as president, Ma has sought to carve out Taiwan's position as a mediator in the region's numerous territorial disputes while asserting its own claims, even though it has been locked in a decades-long standoff with Beijing, which considers Taiwan a breakaway province.

Pengjia, considered the northernmost part of Taiwan's territory, is not contested and is home to about 40 residents, a weather station and coast guard facilities. It lies some 75 miles (120 kilometers) west of the Japanese-controlled Senkakus, which are hotly

disputed by China, in particular. Taiwan also claims the islands, although its conflict with Japan has been considerably less heated, with the two sides reaching fishing agreements in 2013.

After arriving by helicopter Saturday, Ma unveiled a monument to maritime peace at a ceremony and commemorated the fishing deal he had signed with Japan.

"I hope that we will be able to have peaceful cross-strait relations with China, and we can find peace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea," Ma said. "In war there are no winners."

World

Belgians find elusive 'man in the hat' from airport video

BRUSSELS (AP)—After nearly three weeks of frantic searching, Belgian authorities announced Saturday they had finally identified the elusive "man in the hat" spotted alongside the two suicide bombers who blew themselves up at Brussels Airport: It was Paris attacks suspect Mohamed Abrini.

Belgium's Federal Prosecution Office said the recently detained Abrini—the last identified suspect at large from the deadly Nov. 13 Paris attacks—had also confessed to being the vest- and hat-wearing man linked to the Brussels bombers whose image had been widely circulated by authorities.

"After being confronted with the results of the different expert examinations, he confessed his presence at the crime scene," they said in a

terse statement.

The revelation that a Paris attacks suspect escorted two of the Brussels bombers to their deaths at the city's airport is the strongest sign yet that the Islamic State attackers who brought mayhem to both European cities—killing a total of 162 people—were intimately linked.

Abrini, 31, was one of four suspects charged Saturday with "participating in terrorist acts" linked to the March 22 Brussels bombings that killed 32 people and wounded 270 others at the airport and in the city's subway.

The prosecutors said Abrini, a Belgian-Moroccan petty criminal who was detained Friday in a Brussels police raid, threw away his vest in a garbage bin and sold his hat after the March 22 bombings.

Prosecutors did not re-

spond to calls seeking further details. A legal representative for Abrini could not be immediately located for comment Saturday night.

Surveillance footage placed Abrini in the convoy with the attackers who headed to Paris ahead of the Nov. 13 massacre that left 130 people dead and hundreds wounded in the French capital.

Abrini was a childhood friend of Brussels brothers Salah and Brahim Abdeslam, both suspects in the Paris attacks, and he had ties to Abdelhamid Abbaoud, the Paris attackers' ringleader who died in a French police raid shortly afterward. Brahim Abdeslam blew himself up in the Paris bombings while Salah Abdeslam was arrested in Brussels on March 18—four days before the attacks there—after a four-month manhunt.

Candidates for next UN chief to face nations for first time

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—For the first time in the 70-year history of the United Nations, all the member states will get a chance to question the candidates for Secretary-General, in a move to make the usually secret selection process for the world's top diplomatic post more transparent.

Last year, the U.N. General Assembly responded to the strong demand from many countries that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's successor be chosen in a more open process, unanimously adopting a resolution allowing public hearings on how candidates would respond to global crises and run the U.N.'s far-

flung bureaucracy.

The secretary-general is chosen by the 193-member General Assembly on the recommendation of the 15-member Security Council, according to the U.N. Charter.

In practice, this has meant that the council's five permanent members—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France—have veto power over the candidates. That will not change in deciding whom to recommend to succeed Ban, whose second five-year term ends on Dec. 31.

But General Assembly President Mogens Lykettot said in a recent interview that the two-hour public discussions with

each of the eight current candidates, starting Tuesday, are "potentially game-changing."

If a leading candidate emerges and a critical number of countries rally around him—or, in what will be a first, her—"I think it will be very difficult, and probably not possible, for the Security Council to come up with quite a different candidate," he said.

If the race is unclear, however, then the Security Council "will have a more deciding influence," Lykettot said.

The resolution adopted last September stresses the need for "gender and geographical balance while meeting the highest possible requirements."

WORLD BRIEFS

UK leader Cameron publishes tax returns, aims to defuse row

DUBLIN (AP)—British Prime Minister David Cameron published his income tax returns for the past seven years Sunday in hopes of defusing criticism over his investment in an offshore trust run by his late father. Cameron became the first British leader to document his financial affairs hours after he told a meeting of Conservative Party activists that he was wrong to have been so slow to acknowledge his investment in Blairmore Holdings. His father Ian, a millionaire stockbroker, organized the Bahamian investment fund with help from the Panama law firm Mossack Fonseca. The three-page summary

of the prime minister's earnings and tax payments since 2009 showed that Cameron made 9,501 pounds (\$15,297 at the time) in profits from his 2010 sale of his stake in Blairmore shortly before he became prime minister. His wife recorded an equal share of profit, allowing both narrowly to avoid paying capital tax on the shared gain.

Somalia: Car bomb kills 2 at restaurant in the capital

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A car bomb killed at least two people at a restaurant in the Somali capital Saturday, a police official said. A bomb in the car, which was parked outside a small restaurant in Mogadishu's Shibis district, was detonated by

remote control as dozens of people were dining inside the restaurant, Ahmed Hassam said Saturday. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack but it bears the hallmarks of Somalia's Islamic extremist rebel group al-Shabab. Despite being ousted from Mogadishu and neighboring regions of Somalia, al-Shabab continues to launch guerrilla attacks across the Horn of Africa country. Al-Shabab is fighting to oust the Mogadishu government and install a strict version of Shariah law. The al-Qaida-linked group has also attacked neighboring countries that have sent troops to the multinational African Union force that supports the Mogadishu government.

Focus

Destruction, razed monastery left behind by IS in Syria town



A Syrian soldier surveys damages at Mar Elia monastery in Qaryatain, near the central city of Homs, Syria on Monday, April 4, 2016.

AP

QARYATAIN, Syria (AP)—Syrian troops fired their guns in celebration amid smoldering buildings inside the town of Qaryatain on Monday, hours after recapturing it from retreating Islamic State militants who had abducted and terrorized dozens of its Christian residents.

An Associated Press crew was among the first journalists to enter the town and witnessed the destruction wrought on the once-thriving Christian community and its fifth-century monastery, which was bulldozed by the extremist group last summer.

Once a cherished pilgrimage site, much of the St. Elia monastery had been reduced to a pile of stones.

Escorted by the Syrian government, the AP crew was allowed to venture only about three kilometers (1½ miles) inside Qaryatain, located 125 kilometers (75 miles) northeast of Damascus, because army experts were still clearing explosives and mines left by the group.

Black smoke billowed from the western side of town where skirmishes continued. Near the central square, some residential and government buildings were completely destroyed, their top floors flattened. Others had gaping holes where they had taken direct artillery hits or were pockmarked by gunfire. Electricity poles and cables were broken and shredded; a snapped tree hung to one side.

On Sunday, a week after taking back the historic town of Palmyra from IS, Syrian troops and their allies recaptured Qaryatain. Aided by Russian airstrikes, the advance dealt yet another setback to IS, depriving the extremists of a main base in central Syria that could eventually be used by government forces to launch attacks on IS-held areas near the Iraqi border.

Soldiers were visibly buoyed Monday by their successive battlefield victories.

“We will soon liberate all of Syria from the mercenaries of the Gulf and Erdogan,”

said one soldier, referring to Gulf countries and the Turkish leader who have been strong supporters of the rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad.

Qaryatain lies midway between Palmyra and the capital, Damascus, and was once home to a sizeable Christian population. Before IS took it over last August, it had a mixed population of around 40,000 Sunni Muslims and Christians, as well as thousands of internally displaced people who had fled from the nearby city of Homs.

As it came under militant attack, many of the Christians fled. More than 200 residents, mostly Christians, were abducted by the extremists, including a Syrian priest, the Rev. Jack Murad, who was held by the extremists for three months.

During the eight months that Qaryatain was under IS control, some Christians were released and others were made to sign pledges to pay a tax imposed on non-Muslims. Some

have simply vanished.

Days after the militants publicly beheaded an 81-year-old antiquities scholar in nearby Palmyra last August, the militants posted photos on social media that showed them leveling the St. Elia Monastery with bulldozers. They also trashed an ancient church next to the Assyrian Christian monastery, and desecrated a nearby cemetery, breaking the crosses and smashing name plates.

The church’s doors and windows were blown out and its interior appeared to have been used by the militants as a workshop for manufacturing bombs and booby traps, its floor littered with gas canisters, metal kettles, coffee pots and blue pails.

Scrawled in blue paint on the church’s exterior stone wall was a verse from a 19th-century Egyptian poet known as the Poet of Islam: “We faced you in battle like hungry lions who find the flesh of the enemy to be the most delicious.” It was signed: “The

Lions of the Caliphate.”

Another wall was sprayed with the words “Lasting and Expanding,” the Islamic State group’s logo. It was dated August 15, 2015.

A Syrian soldier showed journalists an ID apparently left behind by an IS militant from the nearby town of Mheen. It was stamped with the words “al-Dawla al-Islamiya,” or Islamic State.

The officer said the Syrian army would now turn east to capture the next IS-held town of Sukhneh, on the road between Palmyra and Deir el-Zour near the Iraqi border.

Meanwhile, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said the U.S. carried out an airstrike late Sunday on a senior al-Qaida “operational meeting” in northwest Syria that resulted in “several enemy killed.” He said the U.S. believes a senior al-Qaida figure, Abu Firas al-Souri, was at the meeting and “we are working to confirm his death.”

The SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi

websites, said al-Souri died in the U.S. strike, which targeted the headquarters of Jund al-Aqsa, an extremist group that fights alongside al-Qaida’s Syrian affiliate, the Nusra Front. Al-Souri was the former spokesman for the Nusra Front, the group reported on social media Monday.

The strike killed at least 21 militants in Idlib province, a jihadist stronghold in northern Syria, the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Military officials said over the weekend that the U.S. killed an Islamic State fighter who was believed to be directly connected to the attack in Iraq that killed Marine Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin about a week ago. Cardin, of Temecula, California, was killed by rocket fire at a base near Makhmour.

Cook said Monday that Jasim Khadijah, a former Iraqi officer and a member of the Islamic State group, “played a role in the rocket attacks” that killed Cardin.

Health & Fitness

By KATE KRONSTEIN and DANIEL VOGWILL
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Have you found yourself turning to sugary sweets too often? We all have our food vices—that one treat that we can't get enough of. Detoxing is a way of cleansing the body of the toxins that build up as a result of unhealthy eating habits. Although detoxing can leave you feeling new and energized in the short run, there's a lot that can go wrong if you aren't careful.

Do live a healthy lifestyle

Taking care of yourself is the most important thing. "The best suggestion for good health would be (a) healthy lifestyle: routine exercise, healthy diet, don't smoke, alcohol in moderation, proper sleep and stress reduction," dietitian Michelle Salerno-Shortt said. "Most Americans want the 'quick fix'—easier to take a pill than do the other suggestions I just mentioned." Basically, a detox alone is not healthy. If you try to starve yourself while on a detox, you'll become sick and may even have to be hospitalized. As Salerno-Shortt said, a balanced diet is key to staying safe with your detox.

Don't try risky detoxes

Avoid unproven methods. "With products that are over the counter (OTC), they traditionally are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and you basically are taking these products at your own risk," Salerno-Shortt said. Things can go south if you don't stay safe, as the online horror stories documenting bad detoxes will tell you. You should consult a doctor before beginning a detox.

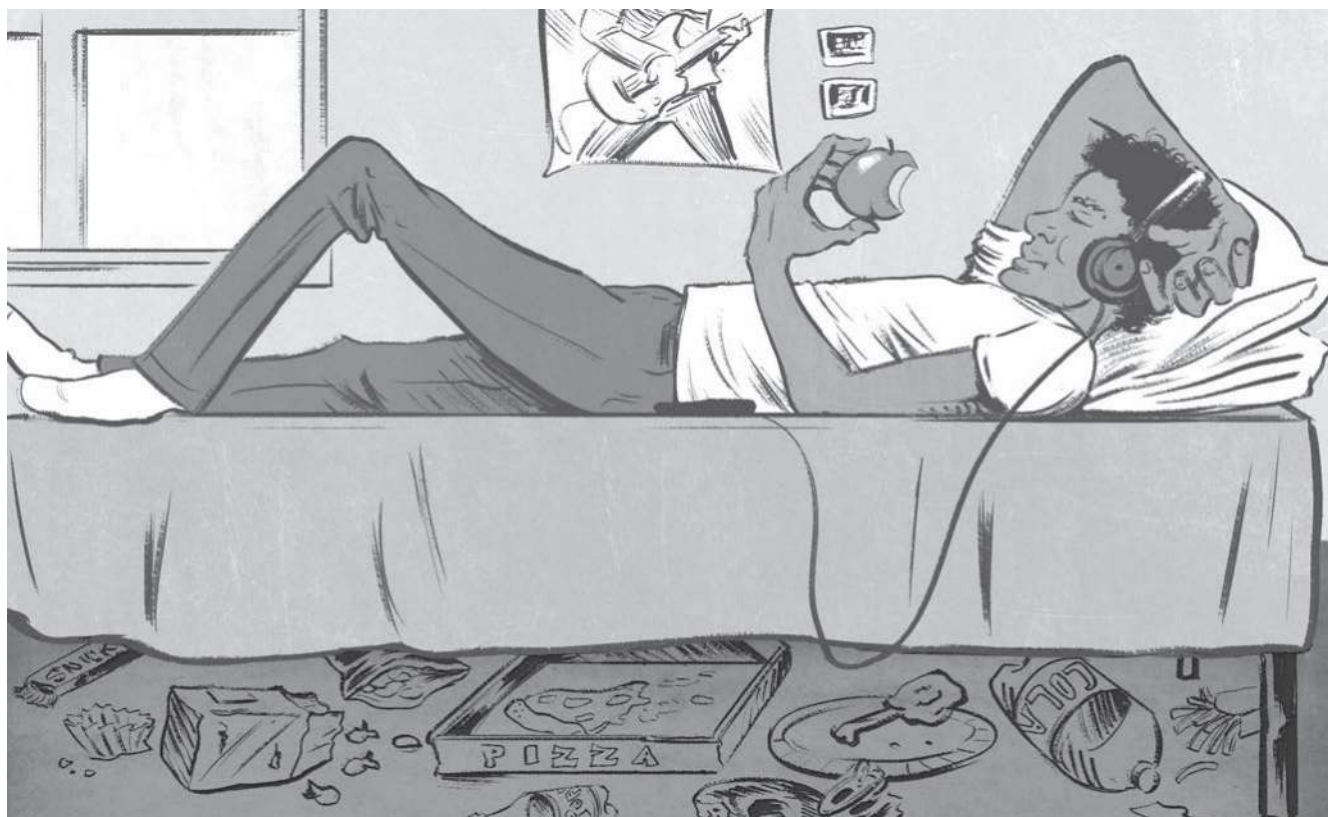
Do eat your micronutrients

If you are looking to detox in a healthy way, eating your

The do's and don'ts of detoxing



TNS
Although detoxing can leave you feeling new and energized in the short run, there's a lot that can go wrong if you aren't careful.



300 DPI Erik Nelson Rodriguez illustration of a teenager detoxing from junk food.

TNS

micronutrients is a necessity. "Micronutrients are the vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals found in whole plant-based foods," nutritionist and dietitian Linda Beeker said. "If a person is already eating plenty of and a variety of fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds, they probably already have what they need in their body to detox." Start to make your plate colorful with fruits and veggies and your body will take care of the rest.

Don't ignore side effects

A lot can go wrong on a detox. "Buyers beware!" Salerno-Shortt said. "Side effects can be anywhere from dehydration, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, allergic reaction, rash or increase (or) decrease in blood pressure or blood sugar. I would not recommend it for my patients since they already have pre-existing medical history and it could put them at risk for further health issues."

Do maintain breaks between eating

The digestive system needs a break from the hard work it does. "The break does not have to be long; it can simply be the time between meals if someone refrains from snacking and has true hunger before the next meal," Beeker said. In order for the body to detox, it needs time to complete the process.

Don't limit what you need

As teenagers, we're still growing. Each of us has different calorie needs depending on individual size and amount of exercise. According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, boys between 14 and 18 need 2,200 to 3,200 calories per day and girls ages 14 to 18 need 1,800 to 2,400 calories per day. Don't trim down these calories in order to lose weight. Hit your calorie limit but with healthy choices.

Could there be a vegetarian gene?

By ALLIE SHAH
STAR TRIBUNE

Those who favor a plant-based diet may be hardwired that way.

In an intriguing new study, researchers at Cornell University report the discovery of a genetic variation that evolved over generations in populations who ate vegetarian diets.

Historically vegetarian populations are in India, Africa and parts of East Asia, the scientists found. The genetic

adaptation allows them to "efficiently process omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids and convert them into compounds essential for early brain development," said the study, which was published in the journal *Molecular Biology and Evolution*.

But Cornell researchers also found that the "vegetarian gene" may increase the risk of heart disease and colon cancer for some. Those who eat green and have the genetic variation, "If they stray from a

balanced omega-6 to omega-3 diet, it may make [them] more susceptible to inflammation, and by association, increased risk of heart disease and colon cancer."

The research team studied the frequencies of the "vegetarian" genetic variation in 234 primarily vegetarian Indians and 311 Americans. While only 18 percent of the American subjects had the "vegetarian gene," a whopping 68 percent of the Indian participants had it.



TNS
Could vegetarianism be in your genes?

Life & Style

New 'Star Wars' trailer previews the story of rebels past



AP

This image released by Disney shows a scene from the upcoming film, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The dust has barely settled from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," but audiences already have a new installment to get excited for.

The world got a glimpse of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" in a teaser trailer that debuted Thursday on "Good Morning America" and quickly

became a top trending topic on Twitter. The movie looks back to the events before 1977's "A New Hope," introducing the ragtag rebels who unite to steal plans for the Death Star.

One of them is Felicity Jones from "The Theory of Everything," whose blaster-wielding character Jyn Erso is featured prominently in the

spot as she's tasked with the dangerous mission. The film is directed by Gareth Edwards, best known for the 2014 reboot of "Godzilla."

"Rogue One," which hits theaters on Dec. 16, also stars Diego Luna, Forest Whitaker, Ben Mendelsohn and martial arts star Donnie Yen.

In the world of "Rogue

'The Force Awakens' wins top honors at MTV Movie Awards

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" took the top prize at the 25th annual MTV Movie Awards.

The audience at Warner Bros. Studios waved what looked like red and blue lightsabers as star Daisy Ridley and director J.J. Abrams accepted the final golden popcorn trophy at Saturday night's ceremony.

The prize capped off the irreverent awards show, which presents fan-voted film awards and touts upcoming releases.

Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart hosted the show, opening it "Mad Max" style by riding through Warner Bros. Studios strapped to the front of a tricked-out truck. Later, they performed a rap song about the year's films that repeated the refrain "Leo got (expletive) by a bear" in reference to "The Revenant."

Will Smith and Melissa McCarthy each received special honors, and their heartfelt speeches were respites of sincerity in an expletive-laden show that featured more F-bombs than awards.

Smith told the audience that he is "dedicated to being a light in this world" when he accepted the show's highest honor, the Generation Award.

"I want to help people," Smith said after being introduced by Queen Latifah and Halle Berry. "I want to be a light. I want to display love. I want to play roles that have dignity. I want to help in this world."

McCarthy, who crowd-surfed her way to the stage to claim the Comedic Genius Award, said that while she is the first woman to receive the recognition, "I am certainly, certainly not the first one to deserve it."

She thanked everyone who buys tickets to her movies or watches her shows. "You are absolutely the single reason I get to keep doing what I love doing so much," she said.

Charlize Theron won the first award of the night: best female performance for "Mad Max: Fury Road." She thanked the film's director, her son, Jackson, and daughter, August.

"The story of 'Fury Road' is in part a story of the power of women and the power to create our own destinies," Theron said as she accepted the award in her daughter's name.

"Pitch Perfect 2" co-stars Rebel Wilson and Adam Devine created an intimate destiny for themselves as they claimed the prize for best kiss, pretending to be overcome with passion and collapsing in an embrace on the stage.

Other winners included Chris Pratt (action performance for "Jurassic World"), Amy Poehler ("virtual performance" as Joy in "Inside Out") and "Straight Outta Compton," which won for true story. Ryan Reynolds won two prizes for "Deadpool": comedic performance and best fight, which he shared with Ed Skrein.

Reynolds said he worked for 10 years to get "Deadpool"

made, but he added that "it was not all unicorns and cocaine" during production.

The MTV Movie Awards serves as a marketing platform for summer movies. Most presenters were principals from upcoming films, including Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele of "Keanu," out later this month. Theron took the stage with Jessica Chastain and Chris Hemsworth, her co-stars from "The Huntsman: Winter's War." Devine presented alongside Anna Kendrick and Zac Efron—the three star in "Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates."

Other presenters included Seth Rogen, Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke, Common, Kendall Jenner and Gigi Hadid. Ariana Grande, Halsey and Salt-N-Pepa provided musical performances.

The show also included never-before-seen footage from "Suicide Squad" and "Captain America: Civil War." Eddie Redmayne unveiled the world premiere of the trailer for "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them."

Ridley and Abrams accepted the night's top prize from Samuel L. Jackson and Alexander Skarsgard, who co-star in the forthcoming "The Legend of Tarzan." Skarsgard came onstage wearing a tuxedo jacket and no pants, saying: "You got to give the fans a little skin."

The MTV Movie Awards are set to air Sunday on MTV, Comedy Central and other Viacom channels.

One," Edwards said at a fan event last year, the "absence of Jedi is omnipresent."

The characters in the film realize that the "gods are not coming to save us," he said. "It comes down to a group of people who don't have magical powers who band together to bring hope to the galaxy."

"Cinderella" scribe Chis Weitz wrote the screenplay based on an idea from visual effects supervisor John Knoll.

It's the first in a series of spinoff films set in the "Star

Wars" universe, disconnected from the more chronological main trilogy that kicked off with "The Force Awakens" and will continue with Rian Johnson's "Episode VIII," which arrives in Dec. 2017.

One of the anthology films will focus on a young Han Solo. "Empire Strikes Back" and "The Force Awakens" co-writer Lawrence Kasdan and his son Jon Kasdan are writing the script for the film, which will be directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller

of "The Lego Movie" and "21 Jump Street." Casting is still in process for the space smuggler originated and made iconic by Harrison Ford.

Kiri Hart, vice president of development for Lucasfilm, said last year that the anthology films will vary in "scale and genre."

"We wanted freedom to do some films that would be able to stand on their own and tell unique stories," she said.

"They can still feel like 'Star Wars' and be 'Star Wars.'"

Zari, new female puppet, joins Afghan Sesame Street

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—There's a new face on Sesame Street—a sassy, fun 6-year-old Afghan puppet girl called Zari, with purple skin, an orange nose and multi-colored hair, an infectious giggle and outfits to please Afghanistan's broad kaleidoscope of ethnicities and cultures.

Zari will wear a headscarf with her school uniform, which unlike that for girls across Afghanistan will not be black—Sesame Street characters do not wear black—but pale blue. Otherwise the eternal pre-teen will be mostly bare-headed.

She is a "universal character," according to the team in Kabul that helped create Zari as the first Afghan character on the long-running children's show, already the most popular in Afghanistan where children have taken Grover and the Cookie Monster to their hearts.

Zari—whose name means "shimmering" in Afghanistan's two official languages, Dari and Pashtu—made her debut on Thursday on the fifth season of Afghanistan's local production of the show called Baghch-e-Simsim, which translates as Sesame Garden.

She joins Sesame Street's multi-cultural line-up, which includes Muppets in Bangladesh, Egypt and India who each do separate segments on their own national programs.

Zari, too, will have two segments in each show, one on her own and another in which she interviews people from a wide range of backgrounds aiming to educate her young audience about such things as the importance of study, exercise and health.

While many of the show's characters are non-gender specific, the Kabul producers said they felt it was important to make the Afghan character a girl to help overcome the endemic misogyny



AP

In this Wednesday, April 6, 2016, photo, an Afghan puppeteer left, adjusts a scarf on Sesame Street's new character, a sassy, fun 6-year-old Afghan puppet girl called Zari during a recording session ahead of her television debut on Afghanistan's local production of the show in Kabul.

that is often excused as part of the country's cultural and religious heritage.

The goal in bringing Sesame Street to Afghanistan had always been to eventually have an indigenous character, said Clemence Quint, program manager for Lapis Communications, the Afghan partner of the Sesame Street Workshop, which has produced Sesame Street in New York since 1969.

The two production houses worked together with Afghanistan's Education Ministry to develop a Muppet that fit into every Afghan's vision of their nation, while still conforming to the values that have made Sesame Street one of the world's most successful children's television programs, she said.

Zari was made in New York. Her costumes incorporate fabrics and designs from all Afghanistan's ethnic groups—predominantly Pashtoon, Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara.

Her skin and hair were also designed to ensure that Zari cannot be identified with any specific ethnicity, but rather with all of them, Quint said. "Every Afghan can relate to Zari," she said.

"Zari is a female because in

Afghanistan we thought it was really important to emphasize the fact that a little girl could do as much as everybody else," Quint said.

Each Sesame Street season has at least one theme, decided by the New York producers. This season's themes are cultural identity and girl's empowerment. "So that is why a girl was a key factor in promoting girl's empowerment and girl's education in Afghanistan," Quint said.

Afghanistan has been at war for almost 40 years, since the 1979 Soviet invasion and the subsequent mujahadeen war that lasted a decade. That was followed by a devastating civil war, in which warlords drew lines based on their ethnicity and killed tens of thousands of people in Kabul alone.

The Taliban took over in 1996, and their five year rule was one of brutal extremism in which they banned women from work and girls from going to school, confining them to their homes. The radical Taliban regime was forced from power by the 2001 U.S. invasion that ushered in a democratic experiment and billions of dollars in international aid to rebuild the country.

Theron, Poehler, Pratt win early MTV Movie Awards

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Will Smith told fans at the MTV Movie Awards that he is “dedicated to being a light in this world.”

The 47-year-old entertainer accepted the show’s highest honor, the Generation Award, during Saturday’s ceremony at Warner Bros. Studios.

“I want to help people. I want to be a light. I want to display love. I want to play roles that have dignity,” he said as he accepted the award from Queen Latifah and Halle Berry. “I want to help in this world.”

Smith’s heartfelt acceptance was a respite of sincerity amid an expletive-laden show that featured more F-bombs than awards.

Hosts Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart opened the program “Mad Max” style by riding through Warner Bros. strapped to the front of a tricked-out truck. Later, they



AP
Charlize Theron arrives at the MTV Movie Awards at Warner Bros. Studios on Saturday, April 9, 2016, in Burbank, Calif.

performed a rap song about the year’s films that repeated the refrain “Leo got (expletive) by a bear” in reference to “The Revenant.”

Ariana Grande and Halsey

provided the evening’s other musical performances.

Charlize Theron won the first award of the night: best female performance for “Mad Max: Fury Road.” She

thanked the film’s director, her son, Jackson, and daughter, August.

“The story of ‘Fury Road’ is in part a story of the power of women and the power to cre-

ate our own destinies,” Theron said before accepting the award in her daughter’s name.

Daisy Ridley received the breakthrough performance prize for “Star Wars: The

Force Awakens.”

“It feels especially amazing to be part of a film that reps all genders... races and ages in such a positive and aspirational way,” she said.

Judge grants Sheen’s ex-fiancée temporary restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Friday granted Charlie Sheen’s ex-fiancée a temporary restraining order after she cited threats the actor made toward her and two 2014 incidents of alleged domestic violence.

Superior Court Judge Alicia Blanco approved the stay-away order Friday based on Scottine Ross’ application stating she was fearful of the actor because he purportedly threatened her life on an audio recording obtained by the celebrity website RadarOnline.com.

Ross’ filing also stated Sheen kicked her on the

ground in January 2014 and choked her to the point she almost lost consciousness a few months later.

Emails to Sheen’s publicist and lawyer seeking comment were not immediately returned.

The order requires Sheen to refrain from contacting Ross; to stay 100 yards from her, her home, workplace and car; and to turn in any guns he may own. The order also allows Ross, who performed in adult films under the name Brett Rossi, to record any conversations she has with the actor.



AP
This June 26, 2012 file photo shows actor Charlie Sheen attending the FX Summer Comedies Party at Lure in Los Angeles.

Steve Miller, after induction, slams Rock Hall of Fame



AP
Rick Nielsen, right, from Cheap Trick gives a “Miller” guitar to Steve Miller at the 31st Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Barclays Center on Friday, April 8, 2016, in New York.

By JOHN CARUCCI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Miller had just performed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame ceremony, but he wasn’t finished.

In fact, he was just getting started. The new inductee ripped the rock hall in a backstage interview, calling the evening a “lazy” night with “a bunch of fat cats” that was tantamount to a bad reality show—only he used a stronger epithet than “bad.”

“I don’t know why I was nominated for this because I said this for 30 years,” the 72-year-old musician said in the interview. “I don’t get along with the people running it. When I found out about it, I felt like I was in a

(expletive) reality TV show.”

Of the evening as a whole, Miller said: “It wasn’t very overwhelming. It was a lazy kind of night with a bunch of fat cats at the dinner table. It’s not a real pleasant experience to tell you the truth.”

Asked why, he said: “The reason ... is because they make it difficult for the artists. I think it’s time for the people running this to turn it over to new people because it doesn’t need to be this difficult. You don’t need to insult every artist that comes along.” He added: “People in the crews are nice, but people that are running it at the top have no concept of how to run a concert or how to run an award ceremony or how to take care of artists.”

Friend of abused husband hesitates to get involved

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend, “Ed,” who dated a woman who put him down regularly. He was often depressed, and we would discuss what was wrong. Eventually I told him I didn’t think she was good for him and he should end it. Instead, he became reluctant to tell me if anything was wrong.

When they got engaged, everyone was shocked. Ed explained it by saying they had been dating for several years so an engagement seemed “logical.” Although many of his friends thought he was making a mistake, we offered our congratulations and support.

The other day, by coincidence, I read an article on the subject of female-on-male domestic abuse and realized that Ed’s wife — although she doesn’t physically harm him — demonstrates all the signs of an abuser. Part of me wants to discuss my concerns with Ed, but part of me thinks it’s too late because they’re already married. And maybe it’s none of my business. What would YOU do?

FEARFUL FRIEND

DEAR FRIEND: I would try a more subtle approach than your past efforts. I would share that article with my friend Ed and let him draw his own conclusions.

DEAR ABBY: I work and live in an ethnically and religiously diverse community. There is also a welcoming and open LGBT community here.

While I was having lunch with a new employee, she mentioned that she was married. My first thought was that she was married to a woman, but later it sounded like her spouse was male. I didn’t want to be rude so I kept my mouth shut. Is it ever OK to ask the gender of someone’s spouse?

POLITE BUT CONFUSED IN OREGON

DEAR POLITE: I don’t think so. It would be more tactful to ask the person her spouse’s name. However, if the name is gender-neutral, then you should wait till you know the woman better for the answer. Time will tell, even if your co-worker doesn’t.

DEAR ABBY: My wife is a nurse who works 36 hours a week. Two years ago she got duped into working for a multi-level marketing company. All she does now in her spare time is try to recruit people. She is never home.

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DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



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Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, April 22, 2016.

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Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
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Arsenal’s slim EPL title hopes dashed by Carroll hat trick



West Ham’s Andy Carroll scores his side’s second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Arsenal at Upton Park stadium in London, Saturday April 9, 2016.

LONDON (AP)—Arsenal needed a flawless finish to the English Premier League season to stand a realistic chance of reeling in surprise leader Leicester.

Thanks to West Ham striker Andy Carroll, that won’t be happening.

Carroll scored an eight-minute hat trick as West Ham came from two goals behind and drew 3-3 with Arsenal in a wild match at Upton Park that summed up the visitors’ season—a strong start, a collapse, and then a recovery that was too little, too late.

Surely only second-place Tottenham can stop Leicester now.

Arsenal is 10 points behind the Spurs and three adrift of leaders, with the top two in action on Sunday.

Arsenal is not yet assured of securing a top-four place and Champions League football for next season, with Manchester City only two points back in fourth after rallying to a 2-1 victory over West Bromwich Albion thanks to Samir Nasri’s second-half winner.

City played a weakened team ahead of the second leg of its Champions League quarter-final against Paris Saint-Germain, which is 2-2 after the first leg on Wednesday.

Manchester United is four points behind City, with its game in hand coming against Tottenham on Sunday.

Confirmation of Aston Villa’s inevitable relegation was delayed at least another week, despite the last-place team losing 2-1 at home to Bournemouth for a 23rd defeat in 33 league matches this season.

Fourth-to-last Norwich could have relegated Villa by picking up a point at Crystal Palace, but lost 1-0.

It was Palace’s first win since Dec. 19, virtually preserving its Premier League status for another season.

Newcastle looks likely to be joining Villa in the second tier after losing 3-1 at Southampton to stay six points behind Norwich, with only six matches left.

“It’s important that everybody continues to believe,” said Newcastle manager Rafa Benitez, who is still to earn a victory in four matches since taking over. “The anxiety is killing us sometimes.”

Swansea beat Chelsea 1-0 thanks to Gylfi Sigurdsson’s 25th-minute goal, while Watford and Everton drew 1-1 in a match between two FA Cup semifinalists.

Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez put Arsenal 2-0 ahead against West Ham, both scoring off passes from young Nigerian Alex Iwobi, before Carroll single-handedly brought the home side back into the game.

Staking his claim for a place in England’s squad for the European Championship, the tall striker planted home a powerful header in the 44th, equalized with a deflected volley in first-half injury time, then rose above Arsenal’s defense to complete his hat trick in the 52nd.

Arsenal defender Laurent Koscielny poked home a 70th-minute equalizer, but a point isn’t enough at this stage in the title race.

“We’ve made it far more difficult for ourselves to have a chance to win the championship,” Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. “We have to keep going and hope, you never know what can happen.”

City trimmed the gap to Arsenal after recovering from going behind to Stephane Sessegnon’s goal in the sixth minute.

Sessegnon brought down Aleksandar Kolarov to allow Sergio Aguero to score from a penalty and Nasri scored the winner for City from close range in the 66th.

Kennedy impressive in Royals debut, beats Twins



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Ian

Kennedy pitched impressively into the seventh inning in his Kansas City debut and the Royals hit their first three home runs of the season to beat the winless Minnesota Twins 7-0 Saturday night.

The Twins fell to 0-5 for the first time since the Washington Senators moved to Minnesota in 1961.

Kennedy (1-0), signed by the Royals to a five-year \$70 million contract in January, limited the Twins to five hits—including four singles, before being pulled after 109 pitches with two out in the seventh.

Mike Moustakas and Lorenzo Cain hit successive home runs in the fourth for the first hits off Twins left-hander Tommy Milone, while Kendrys Morales homered in the sixth off Casey Fien.

Milone (0-1) allowed four runs and four hits in 4 2/3 innings.



AP
Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Ian Kennedy delivers to a Minnesota Twins batter during the first inning of a baseball game at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, April 9, 2016.

ant and Chicago beating the Diamondbacks.

Greinke (0-2) gave up three runs in the first inning on four consecutive hits and a sacrifice fly.

Greinke signed a \$206.5 million, six-year deal with the Diamondbacks as a free agent after going 19-3 with a 1.66 ERA for the Dodgers last season. Hit hard by Colorado on opening day earlier this week, the right-hander now has a 9.90 ERA.

Cardinals 12, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Pitcher Carlos Martinez drove in two runs, matching the total he allowed in six innings, and St. Louis beat Julio Teheran and winless Atlanta.

At 0-4, Atlanta is the only NL team without a victory this season.

Martinez (1-0) allowed two runs on four hits and three walks.

The Cardinals have scored a combined 19 runs while winning the first two games of the weekend series.

Phillies 1, Mets 0

In New York, Vince Velasquez struck out a career-high nine over six innings in his Philadelphia debut, Ryan Howard homered off Bartolo Colon and the Phillies got their first win this season.

Velasquez (1-0), a 23-year-old right-hander acquired in the seven-player offseason deal that sent closer Ken Giles to Houston, struggled through a 26-pitch first inning but retired Neil Walker on an inning-ending flyout with two on. New York didn't put two runners on in an inning after that.

Yankees 8, Tigers 4

In Detroit, CC Sabathia pitched into the seventh inning in his return for New York, and Alex Rodriguez and Carlos Beltran homered in the cold to lift the Yankees past Detroit.

Sabathia (1-0) allowed three runs and four hits in six-plus innings in his first start since missing the postseason last year while undergoing alcohol rehabilitation. He retired the first nine batters he faced and had only one really messy stretch, in the fourth. Rodriguez gave the Yankees a 1-0 lead in the first with his 688th

career homer, and Beltran hit a two-run shot in the fifth.

Dodgers 3, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner hit another home run off Dodgers star Clayton Kershaw, but both aces were done by the time Charlie Culberson hit a go-ahead double in the 10th inning to lift Los Angeles over San Francisco.

Chris Hatcher (1-0) retired pinch-hitter Joe Panik on a called third strike to send the game into extras, then Kenley Jansen finished for his second save. The Dodgers were on the

other side of a 3-2 result in 10 innings a night earlier.

Astros 6, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Colby Rasmus hit two home runs and a sacrifice fly to lead the Houston Astros past the Milwaukee Brewers 6-4 Saturday night.

Rasmus teed off on Milwaukee starter Wily Peralta (0-2) with a solo shot in the third and a two-run blast in the fifth that landed near the top row of the second-tier bleachers in right.

Red Sox 8, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Dustin Pedroia

had three hits and two RBI and Rick Porcello pitched six innings to win his season debut to lead Boston.

Jose Bautista hit a pair of two-run home runs, his first two of the season, but the Blue Jays lost their fourth straight.

Hanley Ramirez tripled home the tiebreaking run on a ball that bounced over Bautista's head in the fifth. Ramirez later scored on a passed ball.

Reds 5, Pirates 1

In Cincinnati, Eugenio Suarez drove in three runs with a single and a homer, and ace-by-default Raisel Iglesias made another solid start as Cincinnati handed Pittsburgh its first loss.

At 4-0, Pittsburgh was off to its best start since 2003. The Pirates also had their top starter making his debut—Gerrit Cole (0-1) was pushed back in the rotation after developing a sore ribcage during spring training.

White Sox 7, Indians 3

In Chicago, Avisail Garcia hit a three-run home run in the decisive seventh inning, ace Chris Sale overcame two home runs to stay unbeaten and Chicago rallied past Cleveland.

Garcia, picked off first base a day earlier in a miserable home opener for the White Sox, went the opposite way off Bryan Shaw (0-1). Melky Cabrera's nine-pitch RBI single a batter earlier put the White Sox ahead.

Cubs 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Arizona ace Zack Greinke got off to a rough start and lost again, with Kris Bry-

Athletics 6, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Rich Hill struck out 10 batters over six innings to give Oakland's overworked bullpen a break, Josh Reddick homered for the second straight game and the Athletics beat Seattle.

Oakland won the first two games of the weekend series between the AL West foes thanks largely to a stellar performance from Hill (1-1). He was shaky on opening day while filling in for ill Sonny Gray but rebounded by allowing just one run on five hits and a walk Saturday.

Rangers 4, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Adrian Beltre homered and doubled twice, leading Cole Hamels and Texas to the win.

The Rangers, however, lost catcher Robinson Chirinos to a broken right forearm. He left in the middle of the game.

Hamels (2-0) pitched six crisp innings to win his ninth straight decision in the regular season. He allowed a run and four hits, struck out four and induced three double-play grounders in his Angel Stadium debut.

Padres 16, Rockies 3

In Denver, Matt Kemp homered twice and drove in six runs and San Diego ended Trevor Story's home run streak.

Story, who had gone deep six times for the Rockies since making his debut on opening day, was the first major leaguer to homer in each of his first four games. That run ended with a 1-for-5, three-strikeout performance—the shortstop also made his first error.

Jets get Clady from Broncos to replace Ferguson



DENVER (AP)—A person familiar with the deal tells The Associated Press

that the Denver Broncos have agreed to trade left tackle Ryan Clady to the New York Jets along with a seventh-round pick for a fifth-round selection in the upcoming NFL draft.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams hadn't announced the trade, which was first reported by ESPN.

The move frees up nearly \$9 million in cap space for the Super Bowl champs who are searching for a quarterback to help them defend their title.

It gives the Jets a replacement for the retired D'Brickashaw Ferguson, who played 10 seasons in the NFL and never missed a snap due to injury. Clady, however, played just 18 games the last

three seasons.

The 32-year-old Ferguson made his retirement from football official on Saturday in an open, heartfelt letter to fans.

"As I considered the words I would say to you," Ferguson wrote in the letter posted on his Facebook and Twitter pages, "I recognize a simple truth: it just isn't easy saying goodbye."

The man nicknamed the "Brick" first said hello to the Jets and their fans in 2006, when he was the No. 4 overall pick in the NFL draft out of the University of Virginia. Ferguson was a starter from Day 1, and he made three Pro Bowls along the way while protecting the likes of Chad Pennington, Brett Favre, Mark Sanchez, Geno Smith and Ryan Fitzpatrick.

Ferguson started every game of his career, 167 in a row, including the post-season, and missed just one

snap - when then-coach Eric Mangini pulled the entire offensive line on a trick play in the 2008 season finale against Miami. He never missed a practice or appeared on the team's weekly injury report.

The last player to start at left tackle for the Jets other than Ferguson was Adrian Jones in the 2005 regular-season finale against Buffalo. New York has the inexperienced Brent Qvale on its roster and is expected to re-sign Ben Ijalana, who was Ferguson's backup.

Clady gives them a starting-caliber replacement for Ferguson, but the immensely talented left tackle has often been injured.

The 12th overall selection out of Boise State in 2008 was the longest tenured Bronco. But he missed both of Denver's Super Bowl appearances in the last three seasons, first with a foot injury and then a knee injury. He tore his

left ACL last May and missed the entire season.

He also sustained a knee injury in the offseason early in his career that robbed him of some of his lateral movement for a couple of seasons, even though he didn't miss any games.

Clady's departure frees up \$8.9 million in salary cap space for the Broncos, who signed tackles Russell Okung and Donald Stephenson last month.

He told The Associated Press a week before Super Bowl 50 that he wanted to be a "lifetime Bronco" and was willing to restructure his contract to assure that. He's due \$9.5 million in 2016 and \$10 million in 2017.

The Broncos met with his agent in March to inquire about a restructure, but those talks cooled after Denver signed Okung to a team-friendly deal.

71-9! Warriors rally to top Grizzlies, 100-99

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Draymond Green is doing his best to help the Golden State Warriors make NBA history.

One record matched, one more to go.

Two games left with the chance to grab both all for themselves.

Green scored on a tip-in in with 1 minute left, and the Warriors rallied from 10 points down in the fourth quarter to beat the Memphis Grizzlies 100-99 on Saturday night tying at least one NBA record held by the 1995-96 Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls.

Golden State now has 33 road wins, matching those Bulls, who went 33-8 away from Chicago. The Warriors (71-9) visit the Spurs on Sunday night, and their next win will tie the Bulls' NBA single-season record of 72 victories—but the Golden State has lost 33 straight in San Antonio.

Green gave the Warriors a pep talk at the start of the fourth quarter with Memphis up 78-70. He has not hidden his desire for that single-season record, and he said after the game he is a terrible loser, especially now.

"I want people to remember me as a winner," Green said. "I've always said that. To have the all-time wins record, that speaks for itself."

Green finished with 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Klay Thompson had 20 points, Stephen Curry 17 and Harrison Barnes 14 for the Warriors who won their first one-point game of the season.

"This game meant a lot to us," Curry said. "It's a big win."

Warriors coach Steve Kerr, who played for those Bulls, said he doesn't care as much about the record. He's trying to prepare Golden State for defending a championship in the postseason.

"I never imagined when I was with the Bulls anyone would ever come close," Kerr said. "We're close. We have a couple games left. We'll see what happens."

Memphis' Lance Stephenson missed two shots in the final seconds on a drive and again on a 16-foot fadeaway defended by both Thompson and Curry that came nowhere close to the basket. Officials reviewed the play and gave the ball to the Warriors with 0.8 seconds to finish off the comeback.

Bulls 105, Cavaliers 102

In Chicago, Jimmy Butler scored 21 points, rookie Cristiano Felicio added a career-high 16 and the Chicago Bulls kept their playoff hopes alive with a victory over LeB-



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, right, grabs the ball as Memphis Grizzlies guard Vince Carter (15) and Warriors forward Draymond Green, rear left, struggle for the rebound in the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, April 9, 2016, in Memphis, Tenn.

ron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Chicago took the lead with a 15-0 run early in the fourth quarter and hung for the win when JR Smith missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer, preventing Cleveland from clinching the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference even though James scored 33. The Bulls still need to win their final two games and hope Indiana drops its remaining three in order to avoid missing the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

James had a huge game for Cleveland, hitting 13 of 17 shots -- 4 of 5 3-pointers. The four-time MVP also grabbed seven rebounds. Smith hit seven 3s and scored 24 points, and Kevin Love added 20 points and 13 rebounds.

Hawks 118, Celtics 107

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap had a season-high 31 points and 16 rebounds, Jeff Teague added 24 points and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Boston Celtics.

Kent Bazemore finished with 21 points for Atlanta, which moved one game ahead of Boston to take sole possession of third place in the Eastern Conference.

With two regular-season games left for both teams, the Hawks moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Southeast Division rivals Miami and Charlotte while Boston has just a half-game lead over the Heat and Hornets.

Marcus Smart finished with 19 points and Jae Crowder and Isaiah Thomas each scored 16 for the Celtics, whose four-game winning streak ended.

Suns 121, Pelicans 100

In New Orleans, Archie

Goodwin scored 24 points and Mizra Teletovic added 22 to lead the Phoenix Suns past the New Orleans Pelicans.

The victory was the second straight for Phoenix (22-58), which snapped a seven-game losing streak on Thursday with a 124-115 win at Houston.

Toney Douglas had 23 points to lead New Orleans (30-50), which suffered its largest margin of defeat at

home this season.

Kings 114, Thunder 112

In Sacramento, Rudy Gay scored 24 points, including two free throws with 1 second left, for the Sacramento Kings, who celebrated the final game at Sleep Train Arena with a victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Darren Collison had 27

points for the Kings, who have played at the aging arena for 28 years. Next season, the team will move to \$519 million Golden 1 Center, which is located in downtown Sacramento.

Kevin Durant had 31 points and eight assists for the Thunder, who have a division title and the Western Division's No. 3 seed locked up. Durant has scored at least 20 points

A late slip leaves Spieth facing a long Sunday at Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Jordan Spieth couldn't fight the feeling he should be hitting 3-wood when he lined up his tee shot on the 17th tee box at the Masters. He hit driver anyway.

What ensued over the next half hour promises to turn Sunday into a much different experience than he enjoyed last year at Augusta National.

The defending champion blocked the tee shot on 17 and made bogey Saturday, then followed with another blocked tee ball on 18 that led to a double-bogey.

A lead that had grown as large as four shots dwindled to one. A chance to play defense and stroll through the pines for the final round, the way he did last year en route to his record-tying title, will instead be a battle to stave off 10 players with-in five shots.

"If I'm at 5 or 6 under, that certainly brings anyone who is over par almost out of the tournament," Spieth said.

Instead, a round of 1-over 73 left him at 3 under and clinging to a one-shot lead over Masters rookie Smylie Kaufman, whose 69 was the best score on a wind-whipped day at Augusta—and one of

only five rounds under par.

Bernhard Langer, the 58-year-old, two-time champion, and Hideki Matsuyama are another shot back.

Sunday's forecast calls for highs in the upper 60s and, for the first time this week, calm winds. In other words, good-scoring conditions.

"Someone gets on a run and shoots 6, 7 under, I know I have to shoot a significant under-par round in order to win this tournament," Spieth said, "when I could have played a different style of golf, like I did on Sunday last year."

Last year, he tied the Masters record by finishing at 18-under par. Nobody drew closer than three shots of Spieth on the last day, and he won by four.

A look at some of the players trying to prevent Spieth from becoming the first back-to-back winner at the Masters since Tiger Woods in 2001 and 2002:

KAUFMAN: He loves bowling and playing the Masters on his Xbox at his parents' home near Birmingham, Alabama, where he still lives. On Sunday, he tees off in the fi-

nal group of the real Masters - one shot behind Spieth. He shot 69 on Saturday - the only player to break 70. At 24, he is less than two years older than Spieth. They played a lot of golf against each other as juniors. The series standings: "He's probably 1,000 to zero," Kaufman said. If he could get on the board Sunday, he'll become the first Masters rookie to win since Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979.

LANGER: Get ready to party like it's 1993. That's when Langer won the second of his two green jackets. At 58, he would smash the record for oldest player to win the Masters on this, the 30th anniversary of Jack Nicklaus' stunning victory here at age 46. And yet, would it be that big a shock? Langer is in terrific shape and was putting lights-out Saturday. He only needed 27 strokes on the greens to shoot his 70, tied with Danny Willett for fewest putts on the day. "I would say I'm surprised, except, doesn't he win every event on the Champion's Tour?" Spieth said. Pretty much. He's won 25 times since joining in 2008.

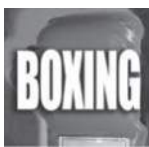


MATSUYAMA: The 24-year-old is only two shots back and is trying to become the first male Japanese player to win a major. He could have been in better shape heading into the final round. He made a birdie on No. 14 to get to 3 under, but made three-putt bogeys on 16 and 17 to finish two shots behind.

THOSE AT EVEN-PAR: The group of three includes Jason Day, who is still in contention despite a wildly inconsistent tournament that included a round of 31-41--72 on the first day. Then, there's Dustin Johnson, who does not know how to close out a major. His last time in contention was last year at the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay, where he three-putted from 12 feet on No. 18 to lose.

DON'T FORGET: Rory McIlroy didn't make a birdie Saturday and shot 77. "You have to try to forget about it and move on," he said. Good idea. He's only five shots off the lead. Lee Westwood, the former No. 1, shot 1 under on Saturday and is in a three-way tie for eighth at 1 over, along with Brandt Snedeker and Soren Kjeldsen.

Pacquiao gets unanimous win over Bradley



LAS VEGAS (AP)—Manny Pacquiao may not be ready for retirement just quite yet.

Pacquiao returned from the biggest loss of his career with a bang Saturday night, knocking down Timothy Bradley twice on his way to a unanimous 12-round decision in their welterweight showdown.

Pacquiao shook off the ring rust from a layoff of nearly a year after losing to Floyd Mayweather Jr. to beat Bradley for a second time in the rubber match between the two fighters. In doing so, the Senate candidate in his native Philippines showed he may have to reconsider his plans to retire and devote his full time to politics.

Pacquiao (58-6-2) knocked down Bradley (33-2-1) in the seventh round, though Bradley seemed to have slipped. He left no doubt in the ninth with a big left hand that sent Bradley sprawling.

The fight was scored 116-110 by all three ringside judges. The Associated Press had it 117-110.

In the final seconds, many in the crowd of 14,665 at the MGM Grand arena were on their feet chanting "Manny! Manny!" as Pacquiao tried to end the bout with a flourish. He never came close to finishing off Bradley, though he was so far ahead on the ringside scorecards that it didn't matter.

If the fight was indeed the end of the 37-year-old Pacquiao's career, it was a remarkable one. Aside from the loss to Mayweather last year he did little wrong in winning eight weight class titles in 21 years as a pro.

"As of now I am retired," Pacquiao said. "I am going to go home and think about it but I want to be with my family. I want to serve the people."

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Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"It's another big challenge and great opportunity for her. She will be able to play against some of the best U16 players both in Asia and Oceania. I am excited for her," Race added.

The 14-year-old Lee is the second player from the CNMI to make the selection. The first one was Tammy Ackerman, who helped Pacific Oceania beat Sri Lanka in the finals of the 2015 Junior Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Pre-Qualifying held in Kuching, Malaysia in March. Ackerman was with



Pacquiao had no problems with the right shoulder he injured against Mayweather as he stalked Bradley across the ring, looking to land big shots. He landed enough of them to make Bradley wary, and the knockdown in the ninth round seemed to take the rest of the fight out of Bradley.

"Manny was strong the entire fight and he was also very patient," Bradley said. "I wasn't professional enough to stay patient myself and I walked into shots."

Both fighters took some time to get untracked, with the early rounds offering little action. Pacquiao seemed a bit rusty from his layoff and Bradley was unwilling to get inside and trade punches.

Pacquiao began picking up the pace and stalking Bradley, though, coming in behind a right jab and following it with his left hand. In the seventh

round, he seemed to graze Bradley with a pair of punches and Bradley went to his knees for what referee Tony Weeks ruled a knockdown.

"He was very quick, very explosive," Bradley said.

Ringside punching stats showed Pacquiao landing 122 of 439 punches to 99 of 302 for Bradley.

Pacquiao said before the fight that he felt refreshed after his layoff and stronger than ever. He hadn't scored a knockout at 147 pounds since stopping Miguel Cotto in 2009, and went after Bradley with big left hands to try to break that streak.

"I was looking for a knockout in every round," Pacquiao said. "He's a very tough fighter and a very good counter puncher."

Pacquiao, who was guaranteed \$7 million, was fighting for the first time since losing

the defending champion.

The 16 participating nations are divided into four with each group playing a round-robin format and the Top 2 teams in each pool advancing to the knockout stage to determine the four squads that will advance to the final competition in Hungary. The Andrew Maitorok-captained Pacific Oceania is in Group B along with Australia, Thailand, and Hong Kong. Group A has Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and New Zealand, while Chinese-Taipei, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, and China are in Group C. Host India leads Group D and will be facing Uzbekistan, South Korea, and Sri Lanka. The round-robin play will start today.

to Mayweather last May in the richest fight ever. He lost a unanimous decision in that fight, blaming his lackluster performance on the shoulder injury that flared up in the fourth round and required surgery afterward.

Still, Pacquiao was a 2-1 favorite against Bradley, who

beat him on a controversial decision the first time they fought before losing a unanimous decision in the second fight in 2014.

Bradley vowed this would be his best fight, with new trainer Teddy Atlas in the corner giving him instructions. Atlas fulfilled his job, jump-

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Falcons the early victory.

Gonzales and Serrano both went 3-for-4 at bat in the Falcons wins and scored three runs apiece. Gonzales added three RBIs, while Kani had two RBIs and three runs off his 3-for-4 performance at bat.

Meanwhile, in the first game, the Comets defeated the

Little Legals, 5-1.

The Comets found their targets late in the game, as they registered all their runs in the last two innings. They got three runs in the fifth, including a solo homer from Bing Nakamura. Gabby Saures and Zeph Limes made the other runs off the Little Legals' errors in the penultimate inning, while Reid Teregeyo had a two-RBI double in the last.

GHASIAS

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meltdown and failed to regain the lead despite its last minute rally. CES fell behind by as much as 8, 97-69, as Ben Pelisamen added 4 more points and Ben Pelisamen made a layup, down to the last 1:38 of the game.

Ghasias did not score after that, while White Capalad knocked in 6 points and Rangamar chipped in 5 more, including a double clutch triple that went in with just a second left on the clock.

Freddie Pelisamen led Ghasias' one-point victory as he exploded for 46 points. Basa and Ben Pelisamen contributed 15 each, while Rabauliman also finished in double figures with 14. Rangamar paced CES with his 19 points.

Meanwhile, GMI Market pummeled Kalayaan in the second half en route to a 94-50 win in the first game.

GMI Market was just ahead by 8 at the break, 35-27, when it more than doubled Kalayaan's output in the third canto, 26-12, to open a 61-39 advantage. GMI Market's young guns teamed up in the breakaway in the third and delivered the killer blows, too in the fourth for the 44-point winning margin. Ron Atalig and Mike Ito put the finishing touches in GMI Market's demolition of Kalayaan, as they combined for 19 points in the final frame.

Ito ended up top-scoring for GMI Market with his 21 markers, while Atalig had 14, the same production Jun Alipio made. Three more GMI Market registered twin digits with Jethro Cruz tallying 15

Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, hits Timothy Bradley during their WBO welterweight title boxing bout Saturday, April 9, 2016, in Las Vegas.

ing into the ring after each bell to lecture Bradley, sometimes having to be pushed out of the ring by Nevada boxing officials so the next round could start.

"Teddy obviously made a difference," Pacquiao said. "This was the best Timothy Bradley I have faced in the three fights."

If it was Pacquiao's last fight, he goes out as one of the biggest pay-per-view attractions in the sport. Pacquiao headlined 22 pay-per-view fights, generating more than 18 million buys and \$1.2 billion in PPV revenue.

His next career probably won't be as lucrative, with Pacquiao running for the Senate in elections next month in the Philippines. Should he win—and he is one of the favorites—it would be almost impossible to remain an active fighter.

Pacquiao said in the days leading up to the fight that his family—particularly his wife—wanted him to retire.

"Thank you boxing fans," he said in the ring afterward.

Teregeyo was also the winning pitcher for the Comets and despite of his team not lighting up the board early, they remained in contention as he neutralized the Little Legals' batters. He recorded 13 strikeouts and gave up only two hits with no walks and no earned run. The Little Legals scored their lone run at the bottom of the second with Delbert Sablan reaching home off a passed ball.

and Junmi Tekopua and Jon Santos posting 12 each.

First Game

GMI Market 94— Ito 21, Cruz 15, Alipio 14, Atalig 14, Tekopua 12, Santos 12, Kintaro 4.

Kalayaan 50— Henderson 10, Serrana 10, Tagle 10, Lerio 8, Herrera 6, Rotap 4, Hernandez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-14, 35-27, 61-39, 94-50.

Second Game

Ghasias Brothers 97 — F. Pelisamen 46, Basa 15, B. Pelisamen 15, Rabauliman 14, JR Pelisamen 4, Ja. Pelisamen 3.

CES 96 — Rangamar 19, Laguindam 15, Andrew 15, Lizama 10, Capalad 10, Teregeyo 8, Salalila 7, Hernandez 6, Zalgatar 6.

Scoring by quarters: 28-24, 52-54, 70-80, 97-96.

PIC Hafa Adai 5K Fun Run

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Butch Sublemente, right, joins his daughter Alyanna in last Saturday's PIC Hafa Adai 5K Fun Run.



Runners warm up before taking on the five-kilometer course.



Cadets of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services do the Zumba.



Pacific Islands Club's Brad Ruszala, standing right, gives out last minute instructions before the start of the race.



Zumba instructor Eli Stoilova leads the crowd in warming up.



Agape Christian School's Allan Zhao is the first to complete the 5K run.



Kagman High School students are along the course as volunteers.



Football club officials, volunteers, and coaches join last Saturday's fundraising event.



Miss Marianas Jian Joyner, third left, joins some of the candidates of the 2016 Miss Teen and Miss Marianas for a group photo before the race.



71-9! Warriors rally to top Grizzlies, 100-99

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Falcons dominate Twins



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Falcons runner is about to cross home plate, while the Twins catcher waits for the throw during the top of the fourth inning of their Majors division game in the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Falcons soared to a 16-4 win against the Twins in the Majors division game in the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Keoni Serrano set up the easy win, as he shut down the Twins in the first three innings. Serrano started his shift on the mound by walking Twins leadoff batter Terrell Rabago before striking out the next three batters at the bottom of the first. It was the same story in the second, while he capped his impressive pitching performance in the third by knocking out the Twins' first three batters.

By the time Serrano left and was replaced by Isidro Lizama, the Falcons were ahead, 5-0. The Falcons scored four runs at the top of the first off Kyle Kapileo's RBI triple and three from the Twins' errors. The fifth run came in the third with Jonathan Riungel reaching home off a wild pitch and the Falcons threatened to pull away with a five-run top of the fifth. Serrano had an RBI double, while Riungel and Chris Gonzales

each hit an RBI single, while the two other runs came off a fielder's choice and another Twins' miscue.

The Twins, on the other hand, ended their silence at the bottom fourth, but still trailed as they made only three unearned runs. The Falcons quickly got the three runs back in the fifth inning and added



three more to end the game one inning earlier. Gonzales had a two-RBI single, while Kapileo and Sandy Kani each registered an RBI single for the final blows. The

Twins countered with only one run at the bottom of the fifth to hand the

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Lee joins Pacific Oceania Junior Fed Cup Team



OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION
From left, the CNMI's Carol Lee, Tahiti's Naia Guitton, and Fiji's Vienna Kumar pose for a photo in India, the host of this year's 2016 Junior Fed Cup by BNP Paribas Asia/Oceania Final Qualifying.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



For the second straight year, the CNMI is represented in the Pacific Oceania Junior Fed Cup Team.

Carol Lee has been selected on the elite squad and is now in India to play in the 2016 Junior Fed Cup by BNP Paribas Asia/Oceania Final Qualifying.

"Carol made it to the Pacific Oceania Junior Fed Cup Team," CNMI coach Jeff Race told *Saipan Tribune* last Thursday during the

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Ghasias rallies past CES Electronics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Ghasias Brothers pulled off a come-from-behind 97-96 win against CES Electronics at the resumption of action in the DL Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 5 last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Ghasias recovered from a 10-point deficit at the start of the fourth quarter and managed to steal the victory from CES despite having only six players available for the match.

The fourth canto began with CES holding an 80-70 advantage as Derrick Rangamar capped the third period with a long triple. CES went on to lose the lead, as Freddie Pelisamen anchored a pivotal 21-5 scoring spree in the first five minutes and change of the fourth canto to put the depleted Ghasias in front, 91-85. Pelisamen sizzled for 14 points in that rally, while Preston Basa and Marvin Rabauliman combined for the 7 other markers.

CES got one field goal apiece from Justin Andrew and Pete Lizama and a split charity from Rangamar in the fourth-quarter

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ghasias Brothers' Freddie Pelisamen pulls up for a jumper against CES Electronics' Pete Lizama during the fourth quarter of their game in the DL caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.